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Questions by
blaze
inquest jury

Curb on Soviet
credit urged

Ripper must
pay victim

Begin's \$6m
promise

Haughey raises
drink taxes

Pound weakens

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10% rise in serious crime recorded in 1981

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Fuel to the fierce controversy over crime rises will be added by Home Office figures yesterday of the highest number of serious offences in England and Wales ever recorded by police. In 1981 there was a 10 per cent increase to 2,964,000.

Each of the figures were released on Friday afternoon, traditionally the time when governments make unpalatable announcements. The Home Office denied it was a move to spare embarrassment to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, now facing increasing concern within the Conservative Party over law and order.

But for this relatively small offence group the year-on-year increase has varied most widely and an increase of a similar order was recorded in 1975; over the period 1971-81 the average annual increase recorded was 11 per cent a year.

The bulletin discloses that the recorded number of robberies in 1981 was 10 per cent higher than in 1980, a lower number than for some years.

Whitelaw appeal, page 3

US and France aim to mend rifts

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 12

President Mitterrand of France arrived here today by Concord on a flying visit for talks with President Reagan and other senior members of his administration. It was the fourth meeting of the two leaders in less than a year.

American officials employing a much-used baseball metaphor, said the purpose of the 10-hour visit was to "touch base" with Mr Reagan in advance of the seven-nation economic summit which is due to take place in Versailles in June. However, they conceded that the two leaders would use the meeting to resolve differences which have arisen between France and the United States on a number of issues.

Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, Undersecretary of State, said that the differences included Central America, the Soviet gas pipeline, economic credits to the Soviet Union, high interest rates and the Middle East.

Despite the diverging and sometimes conflicting policies of the two countries, today's meeting was expected to be cordial. The Reagan administration regards France, despite its Socialist Government, as among America's most reliable allies in Europe. For his part, President Mitterrand has aspirations for France to replace West Germany as the lynchpin of the Western alliance.

The most important point of difference at today's meeting was expected to be Central America. The United States is backing the elections in El Salvador which are due to take place at the end of this month. President Mitterrand has joined Mexico in calling for negotiations between the El Salvador Junta and the insurgents to work out an internal political settlement.

The United States was dismayed by a recent French decision to sell \$10m (about £3.8m) worth of arms to the left-wing Sandinista Government in Nicaragua. The United States is currently engaged in an elaborate information campaign designed to show that Nicaragua is a threat to the Western Hemisphere and therefore poses a threat to other countries in the region.

On the Siberian gas pipeline, President Reagan was expected to tell the French leader that the United States remains opposed to the project, because it believes the pipeline will make Western Europe over-dependent on the Soviet Union for its energy supplies. However, the United States, rather than risk an open confrontation with its European allies, has decided not to try to block or delay its construction.

The United States is determined to take a tough stand on European credits, rather than risk an open confrontation with its European allies, has decided not to try to block or delay its construction.

Photograph, page 4

Princess makes a nostalgic return

Peter Trijoner



Princess Anne returned to Sandhurst, her first married home, to inspect the passing out parade of the nineteenth direct entry graduate course. She was accompanied by Col. J. E. M. Hughes.

Record fall in mortgage rate starts new battle

By Our Banking Correspondent

The battle between banks and building societies in the home loan market took a fresh turn yesterday as the building societies announced the biggest single fall ever in the mortgage rate only to be swiftly undercut by two of the big banks.

In the wake of the recent falls in interest rates, the Building Societies Association recommended an expected 1 1/2 percentage point drop in the mortgage rate to 13 1/2 per cent from the record 15 per cent prevailing since last October.

The move was quickly followed by Barclays Bank, the biggest mortgage lender among the banks, which cut its own rate from 15 per cent to 13 1/2 per cent and within two hours National Westminster had followed with a cut in its own rate to 14 1/2 per cent to 13 1/2 per cent.

The spate of cuts, which will mean savings of £17 a month on average for home-buyers, immediately gave rise to arguments over who was offering the cheapest rates.

Barclays said that monthly payments for its own customers would be lower than both the building societies and the other banks quoting a 13.5 per cent rate because of differences in the way interest on home loans was worked out.

Mr John Quinton, senior general manager, said: "It is clearly unsatisfactory that a mortgage rate quoted by a building society should in fact cost more than our 13.75 per cent."

The Times and its editorship

By David Felton and Donald Macintyre

A day of speculation about the editorship of The Times ended last night with an announcement by Mr Rupert Murdoch, the proprietor, that "terms have now been agreed" for the departure of Mr Harold Evans, the editor.

Mr Murdoch confirmed that last Tuesday he had asked for Mr Evans' resignation and invited Mr Charles Douglas-Home, the deputy editor, to take over as editor.

The statement from Mr Murdoch in New York, issued in London last night by Mr Richard Seachy, QC, chairman of Mr Murdoch's News Corporation, the parent company, read:

"It is true that I asked Mr Harold Evans for his resignation. This was done on Tuesday, 9th March with the unanimous approval of the independent national directors. Mr Evans agreed to give his resignation, but has been negotiating the terms of his departure. These have now been agreed. At no point has there been any difference of opinion, stated or otherwise, between Mr Evans and myself about the policy of the paper. In those circumstances I invited Charles Douglas-Home to take over the editorship of The Times. Mr Evans also, with the approval of the independent national directors."

After a meeting on Tuesday of the board of Times Newspapers Holdings Ltd (TNHL), which includes the six independent national directors, Mr Murdoch offered Mr Douglas-Home the editorship and later asked Mr Evans, who was appointed editor just over 12 months ago, to resign.

Mr Douglas-Home said last night: "I was asked up to see Rupert Murdoch on Tuesday and was told that he had spoken to the independent directors. He was of the view that Harold Evans' resignation should be asked for. He asked would I edit The Times in that event, to which I agreed."

A close friend
Earlier Mr Gerald Long, company managing director, told the Press Association, the national news agency: "There is no dispute about the independence of the editor, nor has there ever been, nor will there be."

He was responding to suggestions by a few members of the newspaper's senior staff that Mr Murdoch was seeking Mr Evans' dismissal on political grounds. Mr Anthony Holden, features editor, said that differences of views had "led to a now quite long string of disagreements between the editor and the proprietor."

Employers wooed on closed shops

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government yesterday retaliated against the TUC campaign of opposition to its Employment Bill by advising employers considering entering into closed shop agreements to change their minds.

It said that with the TUC, supported by the Labour leadership, setting out on a path of "open intimidation" and disruption, employers had everything to lose, and nothing to gain, by entering into union membership agreements.

Mr Michael Alison, Minister of State for Employment and deputy to Mr Norman Tebbit, told employers: "If there should be disruption organized by trade union officials against your firm it is liable to be much more effective once you have conceded the closed shop than while you are resisting it."

Mr Alison, speaking at Selby, Yorkshire, quoting from a speech by Mr Eric Varley, the Opposition spokesman on employment, said that Labour's official message to employers was: "We encourage those who seek to disrupt the law and to intimidate those who seek its protection."

Mr Alison said that the TUC campaign included the threat of concerted industry-wide action, including strike, against the employer who observed his statutory duty under the Bill or who sought the protection afforded by the Bill.

First Briton gets life-saving computerized pacemaker

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The first Briton to be fitted with a computerized pacemaker described yesterday how his heart stopped beating 70 times before he underwent an operation to implant the device.

Mr Ernest Coull, aged 49, an engineer, from Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, said: "I am lucky to be alive and I now feel great. I had a rough time before the doctors at the National Heart Hospital in London put in the new pacemaker."

"I had about seventy attacks, 27 in one night. They had to keep bringing me round."

Mr Coull, a married man with two adult sons, said the heart attacks occurred because his heart beat fluctuated wildly.

He added: "I feel fine now. I take the dog for a walk and do the shopping. Next month I shall start looking for a job."

Military and media pose threat, says Benn

From Mario Modiano, Athens, March 12

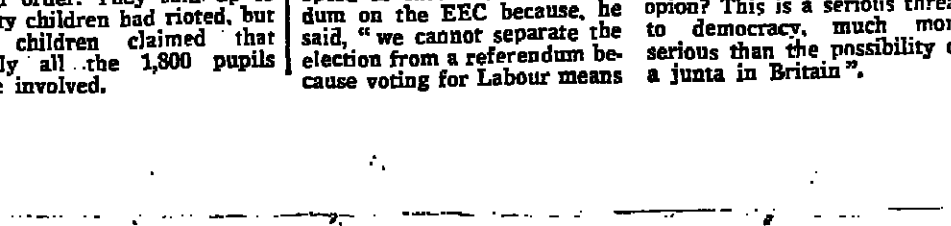
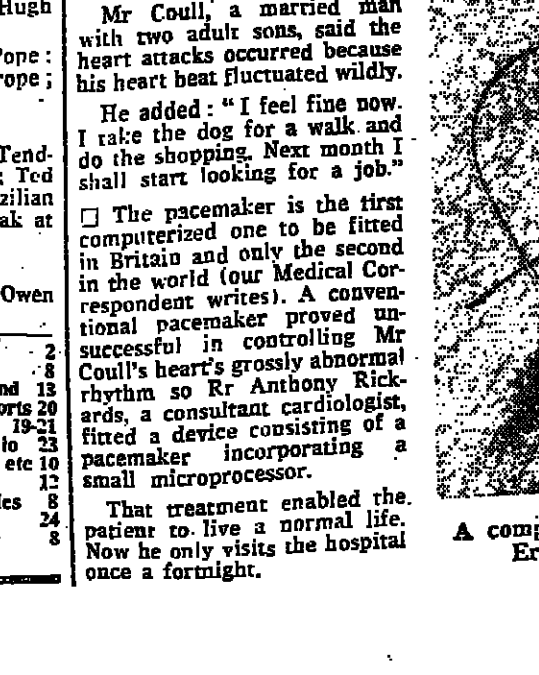
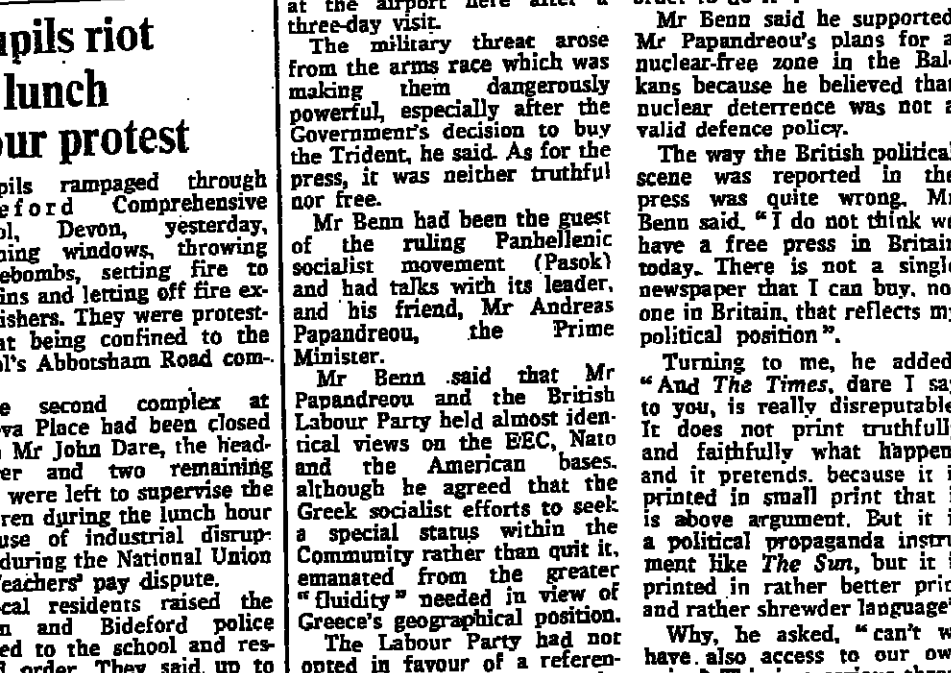
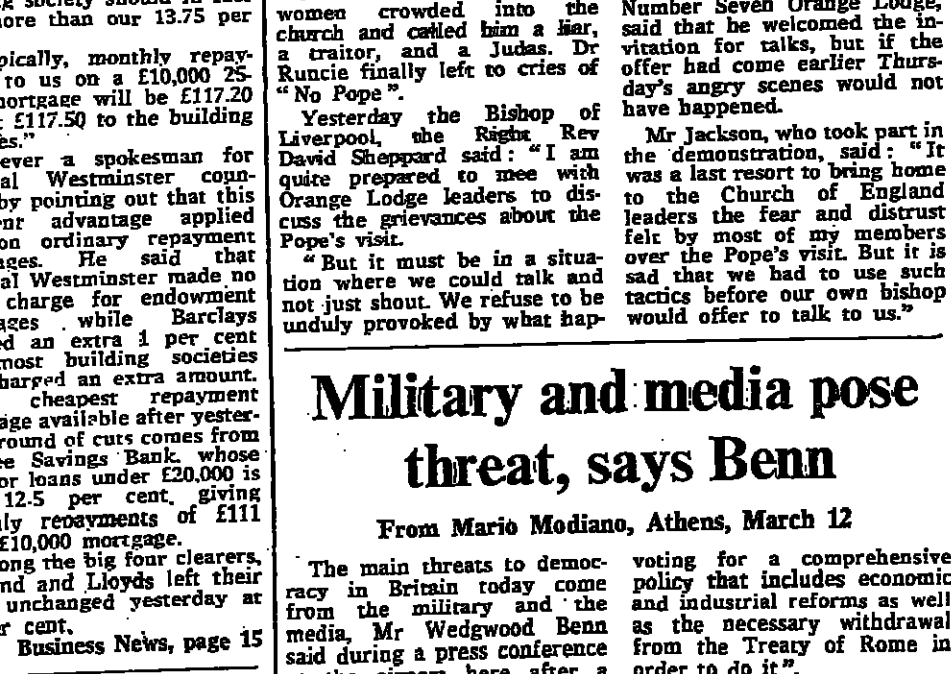
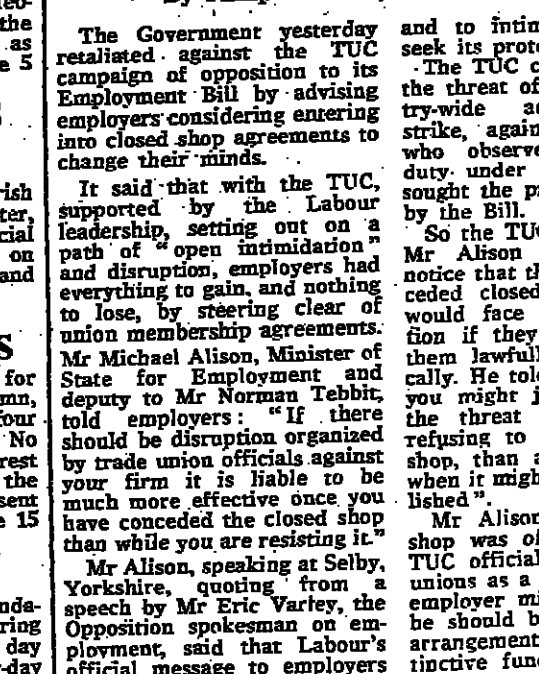
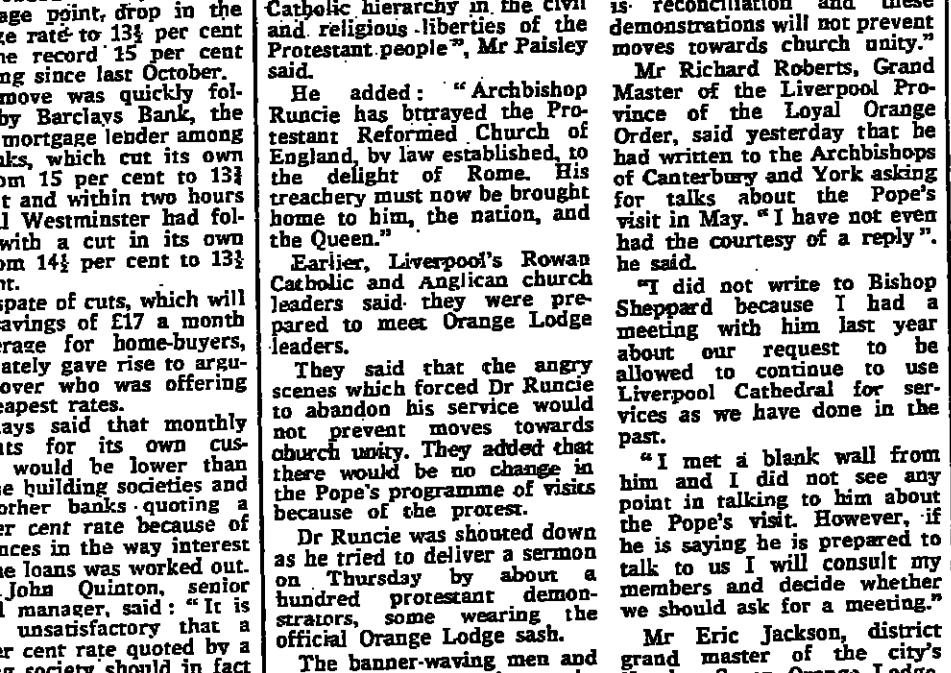
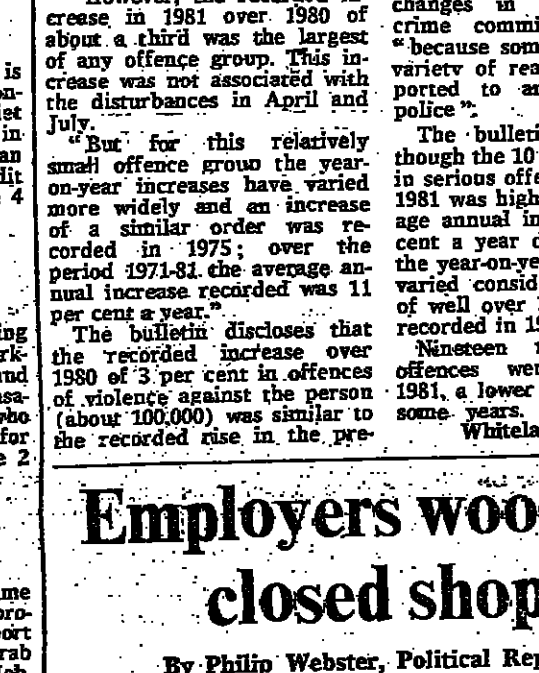
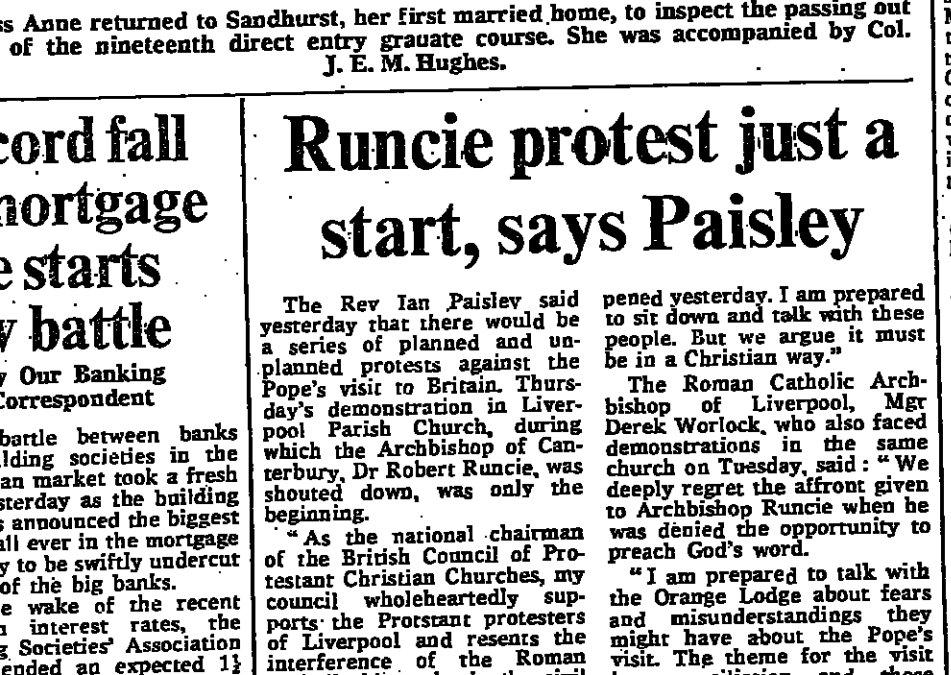
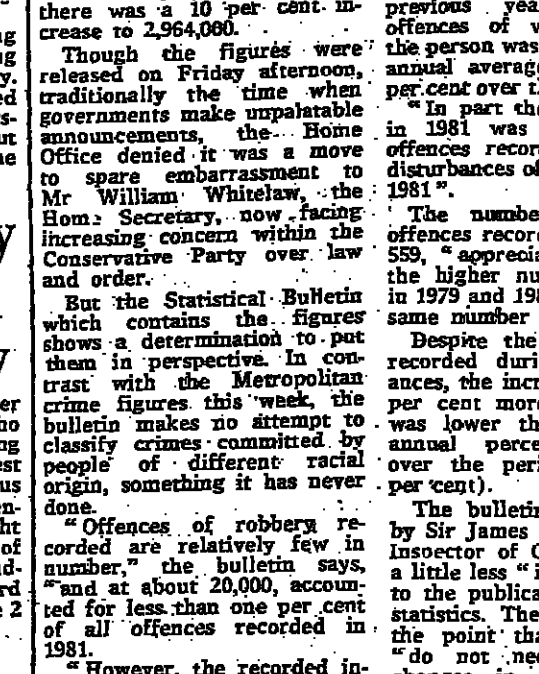
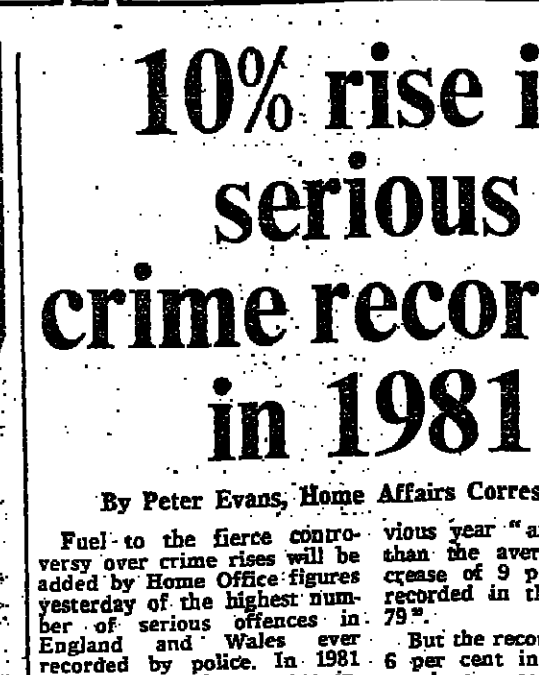
The main threats to democracy in Britain today come from the military and the media, Mr Wedgwood Benn said during a press conference at the airport here after a three-day visit.

The military threat arose from the arms race which was making them dangerously powerful, especially after the Government's decision to buy the Trident, he said. As for the press, it was neither truthful nor fair.

Mr Benn had been the guest of the ruling Panhellenic socialist movement (Pasok) and had talks with its leader, and his friend, Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister.

Mr Benn said that Mr Papandreu and the British Labour Party held almost identical views on the EEC, Nato bases, and the American bases, although he agreed that the Greek socialist efforts to seek a special status within the Community rather than quit it, emanated from the greater "fluidity" needed in view of Greece's geographical position.

The Labour Party had not opted in favour of a referendum on the EEC because, he said, we cannot separate the election from a referendum because voting for Labour means voting for a junta in Britain.



Day of confusion
The Murdoch announcement came after confusion during the day over the exact part played by the national directors, who have to approve the dismissal or appointment of the editor, but not the resignation of editors of The Times and The Sunday Times. That principle is enshrined in guarantees attached by Mr John Riffen, Secretary of State for Trade, to his approval of Mr Murdoch's takeover of the newspapers last year.

The actual appointment of a new editor still has to be made by the board of Times Newspapers Ltd.

The relevant clause in the statement made by Mr Biffen reads: "The editor of The Sunday Times and the editor of The Times shall not be appointed or dismissed without the approval of the majority of the independent national directors of TNHL."

The independent directors, all of whom are understood to have attended Tuesday's meeting of the TNHL board, are Lord Greene of Harrow Weald, Lord Robens, Lord Dacre of Glanton, Lord Lord of Ipsden, Sir Edward Pickering and the sixth, Mr John Gross, who was appointed on Tuesday.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Hospital pay action threatened

Leaders of 250,000 hospital ancillary workers told employers yesterday they were refusing to negotiate on a 4 per cent pay offer.

They gave a warning that the threat of industrial action was looming over the offer, which they said was derisory and would leave most ancillary staff below the official poverty line.

A similar reaction came from leaders of 130,000 hospital administrative and clerical workers in separate pay talks.

The ancillary workers adjourned without a new date for talks being set, after the management side offered to raise basic rates by 4 per cent from April in line with government policy. The four unions involved want a 12 per cent rise, a shorter week and more holidays.

Exit case man's jail term cut

A 30-month jail sentence imposed on Nicholas James Reed, former general secretary of Exit, the voluntary euthanasia society, for helping people to kill themselves, was reduced to 18 months by the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

The judges ruled that although Reed, aged 34, of Sanford Walk, New Court, south London, deserved a more than nominal jail term for such serious offences, justice could be done to him and the public interest by reducing his sentence.

Reed, jailed at the central Criminal Court in October for conspiring to aid and abet suicide and aiding and abetting suicide, had his appeal against sentence allowed, but the Court of Appeal refused him leave to challenge his convictions.

Plessey decision reserved

Scottish judges have reserved judgment in an appeal by the management of Plessey against an earlier court ruling that workers could continue a six-week occupation at its factory in Bathgate, West Lothian.

The appeal at the Court of Session, Edinburgh, was regarded as a test case on the right of industrial occupations in Scotland. The judges will issue a written judgment later.

Silent tribute to shot PC

A thousand policemen stood in silent tribute at the funeral yesterday of Detective Constable James Porter, who was shot dead in a wages robbery in Bishop Auckland, Durham nine days ago. Every police force in the country was represented at a Mass at St Patrick's Church, Langley Moor, Durham.

Director cleared

Anthony Barry, aged 42, a company director, of Old Nazing, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, was cleared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of being involved in a plot concerning forged £5 notes worth £2m.

Unionists reject Prior's plan for devolution

From our Correspondent, Belfast

The plan by Mr James Prior, Head of State for Northern Ireland, to introduce a progressively maturing form of devolved government has received a double setback.

Yesterday the executive of the Official Unionist Party rejected the scheme as a "hokey system of government". Mr Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the SDLP, also attacked the plan on the ground that it was based on the failed philosophy of Unionism.

The executive is the main policy-forming body of the leading Unionist party and its decision yesterday must be seen by the Secretary of State as a blow to his hopes of success for an early political initiative.

In a statement endorsing the policy of majority rule, the executive declared it was satisfied that Mr Prior was, in fact, seeking to enforce power sharing. It also agreed that if an election were held, the party would put its own views on devolution to the electorate and seek endorsement. The aim would be to work for genuine power sharing and not a phoney government, designed to divide the United Kingdom.

The party is not anxious for further talks with Mr Prior until it has studied the White Paper which he is expected to present to Parliament.

Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was directed by the High Court in Belfast yesterday to explain the circumstances surrounding

the disappearance of a woman who was last seen when she left home with police officers, four months ago.

Mrs Margaret Russell, aged 66, lived in Ballyclare Street, Belfast, with her daughter and son in law Kathleen and Christopher Black and their children. The application to the court was made on behalf of Mrs Russell's husband, Joseph and Mrs Mary McGahey another of her daughters.

Mr Richard McLaughlin for the family, seeking a writ of habeas corpus, said that it was not certain whether Mrs Russell went voluntarily or whether police took her against her will. Since she left home, police were not prepared to disclose any information about her or her whereabouts, he claimed.

In an affidavit, Mrs McGahey said that she had not seen her mother nor received any communication from her since November 24, 1981.

"When I last saw her, she was in her usual good health and spirits but she was concerned and anxious over the arrest of her son in law. In view of the circumstances I have contacted numerous persons and instituted numerous inquiries to try to establish her whereabouts and her general state of well being," the affidavit said.

Mr Justice Kelly granted leave for notice of motion to be issued on the Chief Constable, directing him to attend court next Friday and explain the circumstances surrounding the case.



No key to the door: Bulu the Orang-utan, who celebrated her twenty-first birthday at London Zoo yesterday, with her youngest son, Bintang, aged three. Bulu was the first Orang-utan to be born at the zoo, and now has five offspring.

New police chief for Devon and Cornwall

From Craig Seton, Exeter.

Mr David East, who was chosen yesterday to step up from deputy to be Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, said that he was as committed to the concept of community policing as Mr John Alderson, who retires next month after establishing a reputation as Britain's most radical senior policeman.

Mr East, aged 45, the deputy for four years, began his police career as a constable in Berkshire in 1958. He was chosen to succeed Mr Alderson by the Devon and Cornwall police authority from a short-list of six, which included Mr David Hall the Chief Constable of Humberside.

He took over on May 1 when Mr Alderson, who was frequently criticised for his alleged "soft" approach to policing by other senior police officers, retires five years early.

Saying that he was as committed to community policing as Mr Alderson, he added: "I see community policing very much as a means towards the deployment of resources but it is not an end in itself. It is one aspect of policing."

He described as nonsense talk of hard and soft policing methods, and Mr Alderson's association with the latter. "It is not a question of hard or soft policing. It is a question of maximising resources; the need to encourage the public to form a partnership with the police based on the realisation that the police alone are not in a position to prevent crime."

Mr East: "No major change in direction."

Mr East, married with an adult daughter, pledged to build on the work started by Mr Alderson but more or less admitted that "magnificent chief constable" would be difficult to follow.

He said there would be no major change of direction in the force. But questioned about Mr Alderson's stated refusal to train his men in the use of CS gas and plastic bullets after last year's riots, Mr East said he had his own views about that but that he was not prepared to make them public.

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He described as nonsense talk of hard and soft policing methods, and Mr Alderson's association with the latter. "It is not a question of hard or soft policing. It is a question of maximising resources; the need to encourage the public to form a partnership with the police based on the realisation that the police alone are not in a position to prevent crime."

Mr East: "No major change in direction."

Conviction for murder quashed

The Court of Appeal overturned the murder conviction of a man aged 23 yesterday because of error by Judge Clarke, former Central Criminal Court judge, it was the second time this week that he has been overruled.

On Monday the court ruled that the judge, who has retired, had put unfair pressure on a murder jury, and quashed the resulting conviction of Newton Rose, a Londoner.

Yesterday the court of Appeal held that the judge, in another stabbing case, had neglected to deal properly with the accused's defence of provocation.

Colin Simon Ward, a decorator, of Orchard Road, St John's Wood, north London, jailed for life on October 7, 1980, for the "knife killing" of Mr John Hall, a year earlier, had his murder conviction quashed.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Lord Justice Shaw and Mr Justice Russell, substituted a conviction of manslaughter and an 11-year jail sentence.

Lord Justice Watkins said Judge Clarke's directions on provocation were not dealt with adequately, if at all, in a lengthy summing-up. "We have come reluctantly to the conclusion that the verdict of murder cannot stand and must be regarded as unsafe and unsatisfactory."

He added, however, that the case remained serious in that the victim's young life was torn away from him.

Verdicts on 'slum house' fire victims

By David Nicholson-Lord

A verdict of misadventure was returned yesterday on eight people who died when a fire swept through three lodging houses in Notting Hill, west London, last December.

The unanimous verdict came after the jury had sought clarification from the coroner on the meaning of unlawful killing, another verdict open to them, and on a landlord's duty of care towards his tenants. The houses had been described as a "slum" and a "house of cards" during the two-week hearing. There was immediate criticism from solicitors representing relatives of some of the fire victims, six of whom were foreigners.

Mr Michael O'Dwyer, a law centre solicitor, described the failure of Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster coroner, to add recommendations on fire safety to the verdict as an outrage.

Tenant's representatives said that Westminster council has taken over another five of the houses of Mr Charalambos Poryiouras, the Greek landlord, under control orders issued under the Housing Act of 1964.

Mr Poryiouras had refused to answer questions at the inquest, on the ground that they would seek to incriminate him. He was not available for comment yesterday.

The hearing was held at three houses in Clarendon Gardens, with 56 rooms and 100 tenants sharing one entrance. Relatives of the victims were supported by North Kensington Law Centre and by councils over fire precautions in multiple-occupancy houses.

Dr Knapman, who described the inquest as extraordinary and the longest in memory at Westminster, had earlier called the need to reconcile cheap accommodation for homeless people with expensive fire improvements an "insoluble problem".

AUCTIONEER NEGLIGENT OVER FARM

From Our Correspondent, Exeter.

Rendells, the South Devon auctioneers, have been professionally negligent, Mr Justice Bristow ruled in a civil action at Exeter Crown Court yesterday. He awarded damages against them totaling £59,865.

The award was made in favour of Mr Robert Boyce, aged 55, of Ashwell Farm, Halwell, Totnes, who had sued the firm. He claimed that because of the negligence of Rendells, Mr Colin Trant and Mr Paul Trant, two farming brothers, had gained a protected agricultural tenancy over most of his farm when he had intended that they should have only grazing rights. Because of that the value of the farm had been reduced, he maintained.

Mr Justice Bristow said that Mr Neville Pedrick, a partner in the Totnes branch of Rendells had failed to alert Mr Boyce about the risk of land under the plough which was drawing up grazing agreements in 1975 and 1977.

Science report Looking East to a new ice age

By the Staff of "Nature"

The possibility that instabilities of the ice sheet of east Antarctica may cause future ice ages has been raised by two American glaciologists.

Sudden changes in the Antarctic ice sheets have been thought to be responsible for worldwide glaciation, but until now most attention has been concentrated on the west Antarctic ice sheet, which is unstable because its base lies well below sea level.

Instability of the Antarctic ice sheets can affect the Earth's climate in two ways. If large tracts of ice break off, more sunlight will be reflected directly back, and the melting ice will cool the southern oceans. Although the east Antarctic ice shelf is largely grounded on land lying above sea level, it is much bigger than that of west Antarctica. Instability could be generated by the accumulation of snow and ice on its upper reaches, perhaps resulting in a sudden surge of ice.

Evidence for such a surge has been inferred from raised sea levels of about 8 metres in the Pacific 120,000 years ago.

Dr Gerald Schubert, from the University of California at Los Angeles, and Dr David Yuen, from Arizona State University, have suggested how the east Antarctic ice sheet could surge. They say the ice's normal slow deformation could accelerate dramatically if a significant portion of the ice sheet exceeded five kilometres thick, because the ice sheet is warmer at its base than at the surface, due to geothermal heating, and because ice deforms more readily at warmer temperatures.

The estimated critical thickness is close to the measured maximum thickness of about four kilometres, suggesting that the ice sheet is close to the point where instability may occur. Once it becomes unstable and starts to slide rapidly, frictional heating could accelerate the surge.

The thickening needed to reach instability would come from increased snowfall over the Antarctic, which could be produced by variations in global warming by the Sun. The new mode may, therefore, provide a link between astronomical theories for the inception of the solar distance and the inclination of the Earth and the ice sheet surge theories, by using the former to initiate the latter.

If correct, such a catastrophic surge might take no more than 100 to 1,000 years. Source: Nature, vol 296, p127, March 11, 1982.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$2.25; Britain 20 0.50;
Belgium 1.25; Canada 1.25;
Canada 1.25; France 1.25;
France 1.25; Germany 1.25;
Germany 1.25; Italy 1.25;
Italy 1.25; Japan 1.25;
Japan 1.25; Korea 1.25;
Korea 1.25; Netherlands 1.25;
Netherlands 1.25; Norway 1.25;
Norway 1.25; Portugal 1.25;
Portugal 1.25; Spain 1.25;
Spain 1.25; Sweden 1.25;
Sweden 1.25; Switzerland 1.25;
Switzerland 1.25; Taiwan 1.25;
Taiwan 1.25; Thailand 1.25;
Thailand 1.25; USA 1.25;
USA 1.25; Yugoslavia 1.25;
Yugoslavia 1.25.

Divisional Court

Wrong statute for indecent behaviour

Parkin v Norman Valentine v Lilley. Before Lord Justice Donaldson and Mr Justice McCullough. [Judgment delivered March 10]

Where allegations were made of indecent behaviour of a homosexual nature in public lavatories, charges under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1936, as amended, more often than not, prove inappropriate.

The Divisional Court so observed, allowing Thomas Henry Parkin's appeal by case stated from Nottingham Crown Court (Judge Elliot) where two justices who dismissed his appeal against conviction by Mansfield Justices for an offence under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1936, and Robin James Valentine's appeal by case stated against his conviction by Mansfield Justices for a similar offence.

Mr Adrian Furd for Parkin; Mr Richard Payne for Valentine; and Mr Richard S. A. Benson for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE McCULLOUGH, reading the reserved judgment of the court, said that the cases raised questions involving the application of section 5 of the 1936 Act where accusations were made of indecent behaviour of a homosexual nature in public lavatories.

Section 5 provides: "Any person who in any public place... uses threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour... with intent to provoke a breach of the peace or whereby a breach of the peace is likely to be occasioned shall be guilty of an offence."

Each appellant was found to have been handling his penis in a way which clearly indicated that he wanted his behaviour to be seen by the only other person present at the urinals in a public lavatory. In each case, unknown to the appellant, the other person was a police officer in plain clothes who, after a suitable interval, arrested him.

Each was convicted and appealed by case stated. Each submitted that the behaviour was not insulting and that no breach of the peace was likely to be occasioned by it.

Counsel for the appellant Parkin submitted that no one was insulted by the appellant's conduct and that in any event an insult required a communication to insult which was absent in the present case.

Having regard to the tenor of the 1936 Act as a whole, their Lordships believed that no such intent need be proved, despite the words of Viscount Radcliffe in *Brutus* (1973) AC 684, 685G.

What was required was conduct of a threatening, abusive or insulting character which was likely to be occasioned by a breach of the peace. It did not matter whether anyone felt insulted or whether there had been an insult.

Insulting behaviour did not lose its insulting character simply because no one who witnessed it was insulted. It was more than enough that it was likely to be insulting to provoke a breach of the peace merely because no one who witnessed it was insulted.

The words of the statute were: "whereby a breach of the peace is likely to be occasioned" and "insulting behaviour".

That was a penal provision and the courts had to take care that the former expression was not treated as if it were the latter.

The Act did not make it criminal to use offensive or insulting words or behaviour whereby a breach of the peace is likely to be occasioned. It required, in the present case, insulting behaviour.

What then was an insult? It was not a mere insult to someone who felt insulted. The word "insult" presupposed a subject and a human object.

The appellant's conduct was aimed at only one person who, he hoped, was a homosexual. He was not trying to insult that person, and another homosexual would surely not have felt insulted by the appellant's conduct.

The person insulted, for that was what the appellant's conduct amounted to, might very well have been an ordinary heterosexual using the lavatory for its proper purpose. On the basis that the appellant's conduct was insulting, the conduct could fairly be regarded as potentially insulting and could therefore be described as insulting behaviour.

Was a breach of the peace likely to result?

Neither the appellant nor the police officer was likely to break the peace and no third party was likely to have observed the appellant's conduct. It was possible that someone might have seen and might have caused a breach of the peace, but no court could have been sure that that was likely. The court could only have convicted the appellant by treating the word "likely" as "liable" and accordingly the conviction would be quashed.

Of the questions posed, two involved questions canvassed above: namely, in deciding whether behaviour was insulting and whether a breach of the peace was likely, it was proper to take into account the reactions, not only of the person to whom the behaviour was addressed but of others who might have observed it.

In their Lordships' judgment it was right to take that matter into account for the purpose of deciding both questions.

The remaining question was whether a breach of the peace was restricted to acts of violence, the justices having found that there was a strong probability of a breach of the peace occurring by a disturbance or out of violence.

It was conceded by Mr Benson

Law Report March 13 1982

Video recording evidence admitted

Kajala v Noble. Before Lord Justice Ackner and Mr Justice Woolf. [Judgment delivered March 10]

Evidence was produced to produce the best evidence that the nature of the case would allow and that any less good evidence was to be excluded had gone by the board long ago and the only remaining instance of it was if an original document was available in the hands of the parties. The court was not confined to the best evidence but could admit all relevant evidence.

The Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench so held when refusing an appeal by Ramesh Kajala who was convicted by Brentford Justices of using threatening behaviour whereby a breach of the peace was likely to be occasioned, contrary to section 5 of the Public Order Act 1936 as amended by section 7 of the Race Relations Act 1968 and section 1 of the Criminal Law Act 1977.

Mr J. S. Wiggs for the appellant; Mr M. C. Austin Smith for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE ACKNER, delivering the reserved judgment of the court, said that on July 3, 1981, there was a serious disturbance in The Broadway, Southall, London, when a group

of predominantly Asian youths threatened officers of the Metropolitan Police, so that the police were obliged to take up positions behind riot shields.

Evidence was put before the justices without any objection being made on behalf of the appellant and at the end of the prosecution case the appellant gave a video cassette recording of a video cassette recording which he had made from the original which was shown on three television news bulletins on July 4, 1981. The original was in the possession of the BBC who as a matter of policy, did not allow the originals of their films to leave their premises.

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Whitelaw urges closer public links with police

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr. William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, who is under heavy pressure from Conservative right-wingers to take a tougher stand on law and order because of rising crime figures, yesterday defended the Government's record.

He called for a closer and more trusting relationship between the police and public, so that law-breakers could be isolated and the police could put their new strength to the best possible use in combating crime.

Mr. Whitelaw has been under growing criticism from some right-wing MPs, who have argued that the Conservative Party is not living up to its general election commitment on law and order, and his position has been questioned in the powerful backbench home affairs committee. There was further concern this week when Scotland Yard published figures indicating a big increase in violent street crime in London.

Mr. Whitelaw, speaking yesterday at Cannon, St. Paul's, said that the Government had carried out its responsibility to see that courts had adequate powers, and that there was a strong police force with high morale.

The Government had given its full backing to the courts in passing deterrent sentences in those convicted of serious crimes of violence and the Criminal Justice Bill, now before Parliament, would strengthen and extend the courts' powers to deal with young offenders.

The Government, Mr. Whitelaw said, had transformed the police service, with an extra 8,000 men since

May, 1979, strength was at record level, and the full benefit of the changes would be felt as new young officers were trained a gained experience.

To counter street crime and burglary more men were being put on foot patrol and he commended a scheme introduced in the West Midlands in which small teams of detectives were concentrating on tackling street crime in areas with a bad record of offences, and which had led to a significant reduction in offences.

Mr. Whitelaw said, however, that the police would not succeed in tackling the local young thing and the opportunist burglar without active support and vital information from the public. He went on: "Sometimes I hear that these people who spend more time on complaints and criticism of the police than in assisting them."

To curb crime the police need the trust of the public, and the public needs the protection that, in some circumstances, only the police can provide. This is why I set great store by developing mutual understanding between the police and the law-abiding public, so that the minority who break the law can be isolated and dealt with.

Mr. Whitelaw said that firm enforcement of the law must be combined with a campaign of education, and that the community involvement in curbing crime.

Recorded crime in Merseyside in January showed an increase of just over 19 per cent on January 1981 (Our Liverpool Correspondent writes).

Statement by Prosser trial warder

From Arthur Osman, Leicester

When the defence of the first of three prison officers accused of murder opened at Leicester Crown Court yesterday, Melvin Jackson, aged 33, chose to make a 20-second statement to the jury from the dock.

Mr. Patrick Bennett, QC, for his defence, had outlined the reasons Mr. Jackson would not be going into the witness box.

Mr. Jackson told the eight men and four women of the jury: "I have been advised by my legal advisers that I do not have to give evidence in this court but I would like to say that I have had nothing to do with the murder of Barry Prosser. I have had nothing to do with his death."

It was the tenth day of the trial in which Mr. Jackson and two colleagues, Eric Smith, aged 32, and Howard Price, aged 32, have denied murdering Mr. Prosser, a 32-year-old married man with two children, from Seelby, West Midlands, while he was on remand at Winton Green Prison, Birmingham, in August, 1980. The accused were hospital officers.

Explaining why Mr. Jackson would be giving evidence on his own behalf, Mr. Bennett said that the stress and strain he had gone through was something not many had to suffer. He had appeared in the lower court on two occasions charged with the murder but had not been committed, and he now appeared on a bill of indictment.

Mr. Bennett Taylor, a hospital senior officer at Winton Green, in evidence for the defence that he considered Mr. Prosser to have been a mentally ill man, a manic depressive, psychotic.

Patrick Murrigh, a senior prison officer, now at Featherstone Prison, near Wolverhampton, who had been at Winton Green, said that on one occasion shortly before his death, Mr. Prosser had created a disturbance in his cell which he shared with two other men.

It was decided to move him to a "quiet room" which he agreed was a padded cell. "He was raving that he was Mr. Thatcher's man and he was going to kill him," Mr. Murrigh said.

The hearing continues on Monday.

Talbot strikers stay out

By Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Paint shop workers on strike at the Talbot UK car plant at Ryton, Coventry, yesterday ignored warnings of the danger to the company's survival, plans, and voted unanimously to continue a dispute which has stopped all production since Monday.

The management gave warning that several hundred workers at the Stoke engine plant and Camerbury Street plastics factory would be laid off early next week. They will join another 1,400 laid off at Ryton.

A further 1,900 Stoke workers have been operating a nominal one-day week for the past three months since the collapse of Talbot's big Iranian export contract for engines and gearboxes.

All 190 paint shop workers walked out when the company attempted to cut relief times from 105 minutes daily to 97, to permit the switch about of day shift employees to night shift work.

Mr. Bill Lapworth, the senior Transport and General Workers' Union official in Coventry, said: "We are recommending that this strike be made official. The men have offered to return under the status quo agreement so that we can sit down and negotiate these proposed changes. Management has refused."

In reply, Talbot said the official agreement for break times called for a longer than usual time because of working conditions in a paintshop. But the men had unofficially increased it to 105 minutes.



Lighter Dark Blue: Philip Edwards, from Wolfson College, Oxford, who, at 9 stone, will cox in the women's Boat Race on March 21, being borne aloft by the university team (average weight 11st) yesterday. Mr. Edwards and Mark Brockham, who will cox for Osiris, are the first men to take part in the race.

Combined transplant possible

By Our Medical Correspondent

The transplant team at the Harfield Hospital, in West London, would be prepared to carry out a combined heart and lung transplant, should the need arise, the hospital said yesterday.

Two patients have survived such operations performed at the Harfield Hospital, University School of Medicine in California last year, but the Harfield team said that although it would undertake similar surgery if a patient would benefit from it — felt no compulsion to compete with Stamford.

"Operations of this type are not uppermost in our minds. At the moment there are no patients who need it, but if one day the surgeons have a suitable patient, the operation can and will be done."

The short-term outlook for patients who have had heart transplants is improving; 31 patients have been operated on at Harfield Hospital since January 1980, of the 15 who have had surgery in the past year 12 are still alive.

Their latest patient is Mr. Colin March, aged 37, of Perivale, Ealing, London, who had his operation last Wednesday, on the same day that the Papworth Hospital in Cambridge carried out its 30th transplant, using, for the first time a new drug, cyclosporin A, to combat rejection. It has been developed by Professor Roy Calne of Cambridge, for use after kidney transplants, and has fewer side-effects than conventional anti-rejection drugs.

Mr. Donald Frith, general secretary of the usually moderate Secondary Heads Association, said that he had not known his members to be so angry as over the intramural activities of the employers in striking to seek an abnormally low offer as 3.4 per cent.

At a joint meeting yesterday, the teachers' unions reaffirmed their view that arbitration was the "only sensible way forward", and considered further action, including one-day strikes, no contact with colleagues, and demonstrations, that might be applied in all authorities should the employers refuse arbitration.

The National Union of Teachers (NUT), the Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association (AMMA), and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NAS/UNT) are already refusing to supervise pupils at midday or to take part in voluntary activities after school hours in a number of authorities.

The NUT and AMMA have called off their action in those authorities that have supported arbitration. Those include all the London and metropolitan authorities, and 17 of the non-metropolitan counties. The latest three to win exemption from sanctions are Chelms, Dyfed and Lancashire.

Tens of thousands of teachers went on strike during the lunchtime break as schools closed yesterday; in many rural areas children were told not to come back in the afternoon because of the transport difficulties.

Birmingham, which had threatened disciplinary action against teachers involved in industrial action and to dock their pay, yesterday agreed to withdraw that threat after talks with the NAS/UNT. Lancashire is also threatening to take disciplinary action against teachers imposing sanctions.

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

British defence firms have given a cautious welcome to the arrangement, negotiated as part of the Trident missile deal, under which they can bid for work on the American D5 missile.

Most are awaiting more details from the Ministry of Defence whose officials intend to set up a liaison office in London through which British tenders could be channelled.

Many were disappointed by the previous Trident-1 package, disclosed in July, 1980, which involved an "off-the-shelf" purchase of the missiles from the United States without any British involvement — except in building the submarines and the warheads.

Even now British industry remains sceptical about its chances of winning any large contracts, in spite of the United States' offer to waive part of the Buy American Act.

British Aerospace Dynamics, which was among the more vociferous critics of the earlier Trident deal, points out that it needs work which involves technological transfer rather than some small gesture by the American industrial giants.

Some feel they would do better by bidding directly with Lockheed prime contractor for Trident in the United States, rather than having to act through the proposed liaison office. All know they face an uphill job in trying to win anything substantial.

The announcement of the deal under which Britain will procure the Trident-2 or D5 missile, instead of the Trident-1 or C4, had given the

Labour urged to boycott Reagan

From Jonathan Wills, Perth

Labour MPs were urged yesterday to boycott any appearance by President Reagan in the Commons. Mr. George Galloway, outgoing chairman of the Scottish Council of the Labour Party, told the party's annual conference in Perth that it was "an affront to democracy" that Mr. Reagan should be invited to "the heart of democracy".

When the President came to Britain he should be met with hostility and with demonstrations against the United States policies in Central America.

"Mrs. Thatcher's buddy and the two-bit hustler in the White House", Mr. Galloway said, "are a danger to world peace and democracy. I hope that all Labour MPs, from the leader down wards, will find that they have something else to do if he comes to the House of Commons."

Mr. Ron Hayward, attending his last Scottish conference before retiring as Labour's general secretary, said that to go along the road of witch-hunts, proscriptions and expulsions would be a catastrophe if Labour wanted to win the next general election.

With the Hillhead by-election in every delegate's mind, tolerance and reconciliation were the keynote as the Scottish Labour Party assembled after a year of bitter internal conflict.

Mr. Galloway setting aside past conflicts, appealed for united action against the Conservatives and called for an end to witch-hunts. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher had created a "Frankenstein monster" in the form of youth unemployment, he said. He talked of the possibility of more urban riots this summer.

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Mr. Calderwood had hurried consultations last night with his opposite number at Warrington, but a list of eight accepted nominations, posted yesterday, included that of Roy Harold Jenkins, otherwise known as Mr. Douglas Parkin, who works for the Manpower Services Commission in Leeds.

Mr. Parkin, aged 43, of Fieldhead Crescent, Birstall, Batley, West Yorkshire, claimed a "moral victory" in having his nomination accepted. He claims he set up his social democratic party in

1979, and that its name has been stolen.

The other Mr. Jenkins's name will appear above that of the former deputy Labour leader on the ballot paper, as the latter's middle name is Harris.

The announcement on Thursday that Britain is to proceed with the £7,500m Trident missile system dominated the Hillhead candidates' press conferences.

Mr. Jenkins said he was opposed to Trident on economic and industrial grounds. He was a member of the Labour Party before joining the SDP, had agreed to stand down were denied by Mr. Miller, general secretary of the Liberal Party of Scotland.

Reports said that this would make way for Mr. Alan Blair, a Greenock lawyer to stand at the next general election as a Social Democrat/Liberal Alliance candidate.

Mr. Jim Evans, the council leader, said: "The saving on the rates is some consolation for residents for all the inconvenience they have had to put up with as a result of the action of the strikers. The dispute closed libraries,

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Mr. Jim Evans, the council leader, said: "The saving on the rates is some consolation for residents for all the inconvenience they have had to put up with as a result of the action of the strikers. The dispute closed libraries,

housing, administration and social services offices, and children's homes."

The dispute began with the suspension of a housing worker.

A possible peace settlement between the Social Democrat and Liberal parties, the Glasgow constituency has been jeopardized by press reports, according to Mr. David Miller, a senior Liberal official.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY
Yugoslavs arrest protesters

Belgrade. — Authorities have arrested the people thought to have organized the demonstrations in Kosovo, local Communist Party leaders announced, and said the protesters had committed "acts of treason" against Yugoslavia (AFP reports).

The demonstrators in the predominantly ethnic-Albanian region were mainly students and young people, and were marking the first anniversary of demonstrations last year that degenerated into bloody riots in April.

It became clear that the incidents were far more serious than Yugoslav authorities first admitted as reports of "energetic" police action filtered in. A Kosovo Communist League communiqué issued by the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said that the organizers would face "legal and other measures".

The communiqué urged workers and citizens of the province to oppose what it described as enemy action since it was possible that "the enemy aimed to continue its actions and extend them to other areas by resorting to different methods".

Tornado spies are jailed

Munich. — Three East German spies charged with passing on top security information on the Tornado fighter aircraft were given jail sentences.

Marietta and Jürgen Reichwald and Rolf Horst Hecht were sentenced to 15 months, six and a half years and six years respectively. Herr Reichwald, aged 37, an engineer working for a West German turbine building firm, supplied East Germany with details in the aircraft over a six-year period.

'ETA man' held in Mexico City

Mexico City. — A Spaniard who taught medicine at the National University here has been arrested for alleged connections with the Basque terrorist organization ETA, police said.

Sefior Justo Ortega Esquerro, aged 37, was charged with illegal possession of firearms and fake identity documents. Some local reports mistakenly said at first that Carlos, the Venezuelan-born terrorist, was the man being held.

No sex please, we're Swedish

Stockholm. — A Bill to ban Sweden's sex clubs will be presented to the Government later this month by Mrs Karin Söder, Minister of Health and Social Affairs. It aims to make the clubs, a big tourist attraction, illegal from July 1.

Mr Leif Lindgren, who drafted the Bill, said it would cover live pornographic shows only. Explicit sex scenes would still be permitted in serious dramatic works.

Eastern Europe credit curbs pressed by US

From Bailey Morris, Washington, March 12

The Reagan Administration is attempting to put economic pressure on the Soviet Union by urging its European allies to halt the flow of credit to Eastern Europe, senior Administration officials said today.

A team of high-level Administration officials will press for this in talks next week with European leaders in place of renewed attempts to gain European support to settle the Siberian gas pipeline.

The Administration's new hard line position on credit was outlined in congressional testimony today by senior officials of the State, Defense and Agriculture Departments.

They believe that the Soviet Union is experiencing severe short-term liquidity problems which give the West a new weapon to fight for reforms and a liberalization of martial law in Poland.

The question most on our minds is "How do we put the most pressure on the military government in Poland and therefore on the Soviet Union?" and one of our answers is "Less hard currency," Mr Robert Hormatz, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, said.

He told members of the Senate agriculture committee that several East European countries are facing a severe liquidity squeeze which will force them to make difficult choices between non-food and food imports needed to bolster deteriorating living standards.

The Soviet Union, which had recently reversed past policy and begun borrowing short-term money from Western banks, might well be facing the same problem.

This is the reason the United States has adopted a strategy of trying to force Poland to pay its debts at the same time that it tightens credit to other East European countries and the Soviet Union.

"Our position now is that we want to create a process whereby money flows out of Poland and Eastern Europe to the West rather than the reverse, which has been the case for the last several years," Mr Robert T. McNamara, Deputy Secretary of the United States Treasury, said.

If this is done effectively, it is the Reagan Administration's belief that eventually Poland, Romania and even the Soviet Union will be forced to make big internal economic reforms which will not only better the arms race but living conditions in these countries.

In pursuing what was described as a new form of hard currency diplomacy, the Administration was stopping short of declaring Poland in default on its debts, which would not be in the West's best interest, Mr McNamara said.

Default would mean that the Soviet Union and the Polish Government could stop payment on past loans while continuing to make payments to other countries, thus reducing the overall pressure on Moscow to pay.

New information suggests that because of falling hard-currency earnings from the sale of oil, gold and diamonds, the Soviet Union is undergoing a severe, possibly shorter liquidity problem which will also affect the East European satellite countries.

Soviet oil exports to the West in 1982, for example, have been estimated at nearly \$14,000m (£7,650m) or about one-half total foreign-exchange earnings. But it now appears these revenues could drop by as much as \$3,000m because of the collapse of oil prices.

The gravity of the Soviet Union's cash-flow problems will become more apparent over the next several weeks when the Russians begin placing orders for the 1982 Argentine grain crop, which has been extremely necessary to Moscow's food supply in recent years.

In the past, these purchases have been paid for in cash, but there are indications the Russians will have to ask for short-term loans this year, United States agriculture officials said.

EEC protest cuts £66m from Soviet trade

Brussels, March 12. — The EEC has agreed to a small cut in Soviet imports in a move intended more as a political protest over the Polish situation than as a bid to disrupt East-West trade, diplomatic sources said today.

The sanctions, worked out this week at meetings of EEC state ambassadors would cut Soviet annual exports to the Community by little more than 1 per cent compared to the 1.5 per cent proposed by the European Commission, they said.

There was agreement that this measure should constitute a strong political signal to Moscow and we decided this could be achieved adequately through limited cuts," one senior EEC diplomat said.

It was decided to exclude from the sanctions several articles suggested by the Commission last month as suitable for cuts. These included cars, furs, and industrial diamonds, the sources said. They added that the sanctions would be approved formally by EEC Finance Ministers at a meeting here on Monday.

An American official here described the sanctions as highly significant, despite the reduction in their scope. "The EEC is trading bloc and trade is its lifeblood. Any measure at all to limit its external trade is therefore an important step."

The cuts in imports, representing about \$120m (about £66m) worth of trade, will affect a wide range of manufactured products but will not touch the Soviet Union's main exports to the EEC — raw materials and energy.

Minister accuses Gaullists
Murdered gaming boss puts politicians in a spin

From Jonathan Fenby, Paris, March 12

Murder, politics and gambling have ignited France's latest scandal which today promised to bring a legal confrontation between a senior minister and opposition leaders.

The murder and gambling elements have been present since Marcel Francisci, Corsican boss of Paris gaming club, was shot dead as he sat in his white Jaguar in an underground garage here in January.

The political element was introduced when police let it be known this month that a tape recording found in Francisci's pocket contained a conversation concerning two prominent lawyers with connections reaching to the top of the Mitterrand administration.

Then last night M Gaston Defferre, the Interior Minister, put the affair into the political limelight by accusing leaders of the neo-Gaullist RPR party of having been "protectors, friends and accomplices" of the dead man, who had been a local RPR councillor in Corsica.

Speaking at a rally three days before local council elections, M Defferre singled out M Jacques Chirac, the RPR leader, M Bernard Pons, its Secretary-General, and M Charles Pasqua, leader of the RPR group in the National Assembly. The three men said today they were instructing lawyers to start slander proceedings against M Defferre and M Pasqua said the RPR party would be doing the same.

Francisci established himself as a leading figure on the Paris gaming scene at the end of a protracted gang war from 1965 to 1973 in which 30 people died as underworld factions wrestled for control of the private clubs that are the only legal venue for gaming in the city.

His power base was the Cercle Haussmann, near the Opera, but his influence extended into other establishments, and he was alleged to have been a prominent member of the "French connexion" narcotics ring.

Francisci's position was suddenly thrown into jeopardy in July when the Cercle Haussmann's gambling operations were closed by an Interior Ministry order on the ground of irregularities. Immediately there were suggestions that Francisci had fallen foul of France's new administration and that he had not suffered before because he had enjoyed political protection.

Some sources reported that, at the end of last year, Francisci had decided to try to reach an understanding with the new Government, and the tapes leaked by police this month show him talking of using the services of M Paul Lombard, a lawyer who is a close friend of M Defferre, and of M Roland Dumas, a Socialist lawyer and Member of Parliament who is a friend of President Mitterrand.

No sooner had news of the tape been made known than there were suggestions that they formed part of an attempt to compromise the Socialists by sections of the police opposed to M Defferre.

The existence of the tape, said to record conversations between Francisci and M Defferre, was surprising because the gaming boss was not in the habit of recording such delicate negotiations, the news magazine L'Express, which is generally critical of the Mitterrand administration, noted today.

M Defferre said that when he decided to shut the Cercle Haussmann's gambling activities, "there was a great quivering in the Interior Ministry. For 23 years such a thing had been unthinkable. I received a quantity of letters from these gentlemen of the right calling for the opening of M Francisci's club. I may have occasion to give their names some day."

The minister also alleged that some of the money taken by the Cercle Haussmann had been used to help certain political parties and Francisci's protectors and friends.

As for the tape recording found on the dead man, M Defferre said it must have been put into Francisci's pocket. "Do M Francisci's protectors and friends want to make their complicity forgotten by transferring the responsibility to us?"

M Defferre, the long-time Mayor of Marseilles, is known as a combative, strong-willed politician, but the forthright nature of his accusation here, it will inevitably heighten tension between this Government and opposition as they prepare to do national electoral battle in Sunday's local polls for the first time since last summer's Socialist triumphs.



Buttoning-up the alliance: President Mitterrand, followed down the steps of Concorde by Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, arrive in Washington for a luncheon with President Reagan to resolve differences between France and the United States

Latin America in turmoil
Colombia: Guerrillas throw down election challenge

Bogotá, March 12. — Guerrillas who vowed to disrupt Sunday's elections killed one policeman and wounded two others in an attack on a small town near Medellín, Colombia's second city, on Thursday night.

The guerrillas (M19) also launched firebomb attacks on buses in Medellín and Cali, and set off three bombs in Bogotá, according to the national police chief, General Francisco José Naranjo. One of the bombs exploded outside the headquarters of the National Popular Alliance party (Anapo), he said.

Nobody was injured in any of the bombing incidents, and five guerrillas were arrested in Cali, General Naranjo said.

During the run-up to the elections, in which 9,000 national, provincial and municipal assembly seats are at stake, the guerrillas have been urging voters to abstain as a way of showing their opposition to the present system of government.

Since the overthrow in 1957 of General Gustavo Rojas Pinilla, Colombia's only military dictator, this century abstentions have ranged between 43 per cent and 67 per cent of those eligible to vote.

The planting of a car packed with explosives in front of the presidential palace on Wednesday was the apparent peak of a campaign staged by M19 to show that Colombia's social problems cannot be solved by the present two-party system.

The Government of President Julio César Turbay Ayala has countered by accusing the guerrillas of trying to intimidate voters, and has urged the population to go to the polls to show their rejection of violence.

The two main parties, the Liberals and Conservatives, regard Sunday's poll as a general election which will determine their candidates for the presidential elections in May.

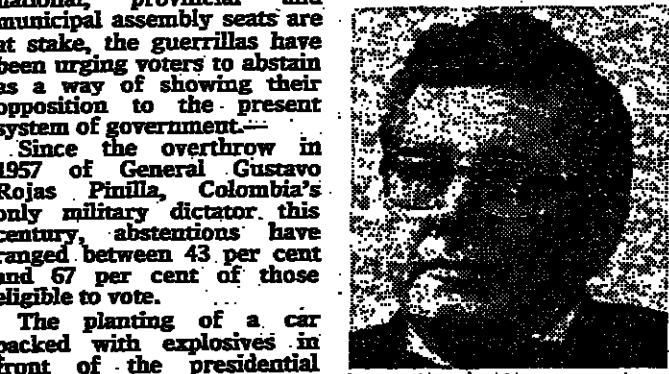
The Conservative Party is seeking the ratification of Dr Belisario Betancur as its candidate, while the Liberals are divided between supporters of Dr Alfonso López Michelsen, Government, and Dr Luis Carlos Galán.

The failure of either of the Liberal contenders to obtain a clear-cut lead would throw the nomination open to an extraordinary convention of the party which would be faced with a much wider field of candidates, none of whom would probably command enough support.

M19 emerged in 1972 as a left-wing faction of General Rojas Pinilla's Anapo party. It gained international attention in 1980, when a group of guerrillas held 13 ambassadors hostage in a two-month siege of the Dominican Republic's Embassy in Bogotá.

Early last year, two attempted "invasions" by M19 prompted President Turbay to accuse Cuba of training and arming the guerrillas, and to break diplomatic relations with Havana.

Since then M19 has combined urban actions with hit-and-run attacks against Army troops in the southern Amazon jungle of Caquetá. According to official figures, 278 guerrillas, 200 soldiers and 100 civilians were killed in armed clashes last year. — Reuter, AP.



President Turbay: Urging people to vote

Surinam: Army crushes attempted coup

Paramaribo, March 12. — Surinam's left-wing rulers said today that they had smashed an attempted coup and captured Wilfred Hawker, the rebel leader.

The incumbent-colonel Daysi Bouterse, head of the military Government, said in a communiqué that his forces were in full control of the country. Mr Hawker, aged 28, a former sergeant-major, asked his supporters to surrender to avoid more bloodshed in a recorded statement released by the authorities.

The rebellion, which began yesterday, was put down by government troops in an attack early this morning on a paramilitary Army camp held by the right-wing insurgents. Colonel Bouterse said Mr Hawker was wounded in the fighting and was being questioned. Some rebel troops were still free and

people here were urged to remain indoors.

The communiqué said that the authorities thought that a few people had been killed.

It was the second attempt in a year by Gen Hawker and his supporters to topple Colonel Bouterse's Government, which seized power in 1980.

During the uprising, which Colonel Bouterse described as "wild and senseless", both sides broadcast appeals on radio and television for the support of the 375,000 population. The rebels promised that their National Liberation Council would form a Cabinet with no military members. — Reuter and AP.

El Salvador Junta accused of killing 300

San Salvador, March 12. — The Human Rights Commission of El Salvador said today that security forces killed more than 300 people in San Vicente Department during three days of attacks in January.

Earlier reports placed the number of dead at about 100, but spokesmen for the commission said that the figures were revised after they received testimony from survivors and witnesses.

The 300 were killed by security forces in San Benito, Canpanario, La Fita Puente, Los Angeles and Las Lomas.

Leftist guerrillas claimed in a clandestine broadcast today that they have disabled a government helicopter bringing troop reinforcements to an offensive in Morazan province in the north-east.

The Salvadoreans are using American-supplied Huey I helicopters to move troops to and from the fighting. There was no immediate government comment on the claim and it could not immediately be determined if the incident involved an American helicopter.

The broadcast claimed to have killed many government soldiers in the Morazan operation and said that two guerrillas had died.

The guerrillas also said that they blew up the bridge by detonating a 500lb bomb that did not explode when it was dropped by a Salvadoran aircraft.

But this was denied by government sources, who said that the bridge was heavily guarded and was open normally to traffic.

CENTRAL AMERICA APPEAL

make war on poverty, not on the poor...

The poverty, violence and suffering in Central America now threaten to engulf the region in a tragedy comparable to that of the Second World War in Europe.

According to Edward Heath, one of the primary causes for this crisis is:

"the long history of repression and exploitation of ordinary people by the government in league with an oligarchy of business interests."

WAR ON WANT works with the ordinary people and their popular organisations in their struggle to end oppression and poverty. In El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and in the Caribbean.

MAKE SURE YOUR SUPPORT REACHES THE POOR.

As the violence in the region escalates, there is an urgent need for more support. We've made our choice — please make your choice today.

I ENCLOSE £
NAME
ADDRESS
FILL IN THIS BANKER'S ORDER TO DONATE REGULARLY TO WAR ON WANT (YOUR BANK NAME)
TO (YOUR BANK NAME)
AT (YOUR BANK ADDRESS)
Please pay War on Want £ every month/quarter starting on 1982, until further notice.
Signature
Account No.
FOR OFFICE USE
To National Westminster Bank, Ealing Branch, London W5 (00-07-12) A/c 18575785 quoting our reference
War on Want, Room 46, 467 Caledonian Road, London N7.

Sombre security summit adjourns until November

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, March 12

Western delegates made sombre, sceptical speeches before the stormy four-week session of the European security review conference was adjourned here today. It was agreed to resume on November 9 and to try to conclude a final document "at the earliest possible time".

Western sources indicated much depends on events — especially in Poland — on the prospects for progress. The "gentlemen's agreement" worked out last weekend by the eight neutral and non-aligned for the adjournment finally held.

"Peace is better than quarrelling," said Herr Willi Pahr, the Austrian Foreign Minister, who came specially for the closing plenary session. He hinted that the climate of confrontation between East and West has become so oppressive that adjournment was evidently the lesser evil.

Mr Max Kampelman, the United States chief delegate, said: "We close this phase of our meetings fully conscious that the Helsinki process is in danger. Each passing week of our meeting brought with it new tensions as we perceived a curtain of Soviet behaviour which could only be interpreted as disdain. If not defiance, of the Helsinki final act."

Today's adjournment leaves undecided, until the end of the year, what happens to the draft of the concluding documents put together by the neutral and non-aligned nations. It text which has been lying around since December for possible amendment and final approval by the 35 nations at the conference.

Very little is offered in that document for an improved code of conduct between East and West in the view of the west. Yet the most striking thing in today's speeches was that no delegation wants the Helsinki process to disappear. "We are making the decision to reconvene, and that is significant because we appreciate the value of our continuing to talk," Mr Kampelman said.

After the military takeover, the Americans originally thought of a separate meeting in January on the subject of Poland but the consensus requirement of the conference made that an obvious non-starter. So the big parade of the West's Foreign Ministers took place in Madrid last month. Thereafter the West took the decision not to work on a single line of a final document while continuing to talk about Poland in the plenaries.

The West opted to wait for better times and Belgium, speaking for the 10 today, expressed a realistic hope of concluding a balanced document after the autumn.

There is no certainty that the Soviet Union will obtain even the first phase of a disarmament conference from the Madrid meeting as an element in future propaganda campaigns. This conference, they evidently calculated, made it worthwhile sitting through the sessions reviewing the Soviet Union's systematic violation of human rights and its massive pressure on Poland — the topics which allowed the West to score valuable points.

The Reagan Administration neither liked, nor committed itself to, the French disarmament conference proposal, because the coordinates on future inspection zones extending into the Atlantic might hinder surprise strikes by Washington's rapid deployment force.

Bonn offers Reagan a hearing

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, March 12

While the Labour Party is trying to stop President Reagan addressing Parliament in Westminster Hall, the West German parties have been vying with each other in their desire to get him to speak to the Bundestag.

An invitation will be sent to the President next week after leaders of all three parliamentary parties came out in favour of the idea, a Bundestag spokesman said today. The suggestion first came from the conservative opposition Christian Democrats.

It was quickly echoed by the liberal Free Democrats, the junior coalition partners, and finally, not to be outdone, by the Social Democrats.

Washington answers the 133-square-mile island as the eastern end of a strengthening left-wing axis that includes Nicaragua and Cuba, Grenada's only regional ally. The United States fears that the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) in St George's is keen to foment revolution in other eastern Caribbean islands, and that it intends to open its international airport, now being built at a cost of \$71m (nearly £39m), to Cuban and Soviet aircraft, threatening United States security in the Caribbean and vital import routes through the area.

President Reagan, who believes that Grenada is in the "gripping grip of the totalitarian left", pointedly excluded Grenada from his Caribbean aid package announced in Washington last month. He has refused to accept Grenada's ambassador to the United States and ordered the American Ambassador in Barbados not to present his letters of credence in St George's.

Athens. — A home-made time bomb exploded in Athens cathedral yesterday, causing extensive damage to icons, police said. A left-wing unknown organization calling itself "iconoclast nihilists" telephoned to newspapers to claim responsibility.

Grenada: Defiance after US snub

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain, March 12

Roars of anti-American defiance are likely to sound in the tiny Caribbean capital of St George's, Grenada, tomorrow as the island's 115,000 people celebrates the third anniversary of its 1979 revolution in the face of fierce American hostility.

Washington answers the 133-square-mile island as the eastern end of a strengthening left-wing axis that includes Nicaragua and Cuba, Grenada's only regional ally. The United States fears that the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) in St George's is keen to foment revolution in other eastern Caribbean islands, and that it intends to open its international airport, now being built at a cost of \$71m (nearly £39m), to Cuban and Soviet aircraft, threatening United States security in the Caribbean and vital import routes through the area.

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Last year, joint naval exercises off Puerto Rico by American and Nato forces included the mock invasion of an imaginary island strikingly similar to Grenada and the United States brought pressure on the International Monetary Fund and Development Bank to block financial aid for the island.

"We do not feel we have isolated Grenada," Dr Melvin Evan, the United States ambassador in Trinidad, said. "By its actions, Grenada has isolated itself."

Mr Maurice Bishop, the Prime Minister, a British-trained lawyer, aged 37, who seized power in a popular coup three years ago, insisted that Grenada poses no threat to the mighty United States. "The PRG has always wanted, and still wants, good relations with the Government of the United States," he wrote to President Reagan last August after an earlier letter went unanswered.

Mr Bishop also insists that the 9,000ft runway being built near St George's with substantial help from Cuba, Libya, Algeria and Syria, is purely the means of developing the islands relatively untapped tourist potential and for the expansion of regional and international trade. At present Grenada is served by a 5,000-ft airfield

an hour's drive from the capital, which cannot take medium or large aircraft or night landings.

Mr Bishop also complained that mercenaries are being trained in the United States without government interference, for deploying against certain regional States, including Grenada. This amounted to a virtual declaration of war by the United States against Grenada. The letter produced a two-paragraph reply from the Charge d'Affaires at the United States Embassy in Barbados, stating politely that the United States hoped for signs of a serious commitment in Grenada to improved relations and specifically "a policy of non-alignment and a truly democratic society".

The network of "mass organizations", established in Grenada as a substitute for Western-style democracy cut little ice in Washington, and neither do the PRG's reforms, which include free secondary education and health care. Nor are American troops shed over the island's economic problems, which derive mainly from an unsurprising slump in North American tourism and low commodity prices for its Cocoa, bananas and nutmegs.

SUMMARY
Chemical
war denial
Moscow
Bulow jurors
Genscher boom
into silence
Poll coverage
restricted
Pacific islands
nuclear test ban
CORRECTION
The report on the...
nuclear test ban...
temperatures...

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Chemical war denial by Moscow

Moscow.—The Soviet Union has given a warning that it will match any chemical weapons produced by the United States, but says its own chemical warfare troops are purely defensive. (Michael Binyon writes.)

Soviet scientists and a Defence Ministry expert denied accusations that the Russians had used toxins in Afghanistan or in South-East Asia. They instead accused the Americans of raining down chemical weapons during the Vietnam war and of supplying chemical bombs to the Government of El Salvador.

Major-General Anatoly Kuntsevich said the Americans were building their chemical capabilities in an attempt to obtain strategic superiority over the Soviet Union. But he asserted that the Soviet armed forces were ready with a counterweight, which would include binary weapons if necessary.

Abscam man quits Senate

Washington.—Senator Harrison Williams, who was sentenced to three years in prison for his part in the Abscam bribery case, has resigned from the Senate, sparing his colleagues from having to expel him.

If he had been expelled, he would have been the first person to have been removed from the Senate since the American Civil War (Nicholas Pickford writes).

His announcement came after almost a week of drama in the Senate during which he pleaded his innocence, vowing that "God will vindicate me". The New Jersey Democrat was one of seven congressmen involved in the Abscam scandal. The others, all members of the House of Representatives, either resigned or were defeated while seeking reelection.

Yelling from Bulow jurors

Newport, Rhode Island.—A few hours after the jury in the Claus von Bulow trial retired, a court officer reported: "There is yelling and screaming going on in there." The 12 jurors, now in their second day of deliberations, took 89 state exhibits and 55 defence exhibits into the jury room, including the encephalogram needle that Mr von Bulow allegedly used to inject his wife, Martha, with insulin. She now lies in an irreversible coma in a New York hospital.

Genscher booted into silence

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, who was forced to abandon an election speech by 200 Communist hecklers in Achim, near Bremen.

The police, who did not intervene, said that Herr Genscher apparently saw no sense in continuing his speech amid the boos and whistles. He was campaigning for his liberal Free Democratic party, for the Lower Saxony state elections on March 21. — Reuters.

Poll coverage restricted

Jakarta.—The Indonesian Government has told foreign journalists that they will be able to cover the general elections on May 4 at province and district level, but not in the villages.

The Information Department said that in restricting coverage of the elections and the 45-day campaign period which started on Monday, it did not want to give anything but that "people in the villages might be very busy".

Pacific islands seek nuclear test ban

Geneva.—Twenty south Pacific island territories have called for local control over nuclear tests and a ban on storage of atomic waste in their regions at a four-day environment conference in Rarotonga, capital of the Cook Islands.

CORRECTION

The report on Tuesday on a European nuclear fusion project should have said that plasma from hydrogen isotopes could reach temperatures of 100m°C, not 100°C.

Begin promises £6m to loyal Arab villages

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 12

Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, had a rare meeting today with a West Bank Palestinian when he held talks with Mr Mustapha Dubeen, founder of the village leagues now being backed by Israel as a counterweight to local support for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The meeting came amid reports that Israel is considering new measures to weaken the influence of the elected Arab mayors in the occupied territories. It followed this week's outlawing of the radical National Guidance Committee and the tough Israeli warning to Jordan not to interfere in the operation of the leagues.

The talks were requested by Mr Dubeen, a former Jordanian Cabinet Minister, who later told *The Times* that the Israeli Prime Minister had pledged to provide 200m shekels (about £6m) to support development projects over the next year in the 24 Arab villages attached to his Hebron league.

Mr Dubeen, who is provided with a round-the-clock Israeli guard after repeated Palestinian death threats, referred to Mr Begin as "his excellency" during the telephone interview from his West Bank home. The call ended when the line was suddenly cut without explanation.

Before he told me he had asked for the meeting to express dissatisfaction with the financial assistance offered by the Israelis. "We did not discuss politics," he said. "I only discussed the economic and social problems of our villages. I wanted to meet you because the Israeli financial year begins in April."

Asked whether he had discussed Jordan's threat to impose the death penalty on Palestinians who did not withdraw from the five village leagues over the next month, Mr Dubeen replied: "It was not necessary to raise the subject. Israel knows its responsibilities."

The official communiqué from Mr Begin's office said that Mr Dubeen had informed the Prime Minister

that the leagues of rural Palestinians had greater support than was generally known. He said that, despite constant threats from PLO supporters, most villages on the West Bank wanted relations of peace and understanding with Israel.

The Prime Minister responded with praise for the courage of the league leaders, one of whom was recently assassinated near Ramallah, and with an explanation of the Palestinian autonomy scheme proposed by Israel.

In recent years the only Palestinians to have met Mr Begin face to face are Mr Elias Freij, Mayor of Bethlehem, and Mr Rashad Shawwa, Mayor of Gaza. Both are bitter critics of the village league members, whom they dismiss as "quillings".

Despite the references in the communiqué, Western diplomats who monitor events on the West Bank still believe that the leagues have very little support, although it is acknowledged that without elections, precise estimates are difficult.

A panel of Israeli civil servants has rejected a proposal from the chief of information at the Foreign Ministry, Mr Moshe Yegar, that foreign correspondents with "hostile intentions" should be barred from entering and those already here preparing "hostile reports" should be expelled.

Details of the plan, presented to the Director General of the Prime Minister's office on February 3, were disclosed today by the Jerusalem Post. One section said: "Should these newsmen be discovered to be preparing a hostile report while in Israel, they will be asked immediately to stop their work and leave the country."

Despite rejection of the plan, drawn up in response to a critical ABC television film about Israeli policies in the occupied West Bank — the Foreign Ministry has been embarrassed that details of restrictive suggestions by its head of information should have been made public.

MiGs deal nearer agreement

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, March 12

The Soviet Union appears to have advanced a stage nearer agreement with President Hafez al-Assad to supply Syria with advanced Russian-built MiG-23 fighter aircraft and new ground-to-air missiles.

Marshal Pavel Kutakov, the Soviet Deputy Defence Minister and Air Force Commander, today handed the Syrian President a letter that is believed to have contained a promise to augment military supplies to the country.

Marshal Kutakov left Damascus this morning, but the Syrian authorities refused to disclose any details of his conversation with the President.

Well aware of both its military and political isolation, Syria has been seeking closer cooperation with the Soviet Union and has reportedly asked the Russians for a guarantee of intervention if the Israelis should take military action against it this spring. There is no confirmation of such a request, but the Russians have apparently given no such promise.

Syria already possesses an interceptor squadron of MiG 25 jets, but the Russians have yet to supply a more advanced version that is believed to be necessary to equal the performance of the American-built F 155 in service with the Israeli Air Force.

Syria's complement of MiG 17s and MiG 23s have proved no match for Israeli aircraft during dogfights over Lebanon.

Even if the Russians have agreed to send the newer machines to Syria, Syrian pilots would need several months to train on the aircraft before being able to undertake active operations.

PLO visit will test the Vatican

From Peter Nichols, Rome, March 12

The Palestinian question is about to test the Vatican's diplomatic skills. The arrival here next week of Mr Fawzi Kaddoumi, the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's political department. It is understood that he will be received privately by the Pope.

Arabs believe, and the Israelis fear, that this private meeting will be the prelude to formal recognition of the PLO by the Vatican and the subsequent visit from Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader.

Given the private nature of the occasion, the Vatican is making no comment, but formal relations with the PLO would follow the logic of the Vatican's diplomacy, under the present Pope, which is publicly sympathetic to the Palestinian claims to a homeland.

Vatican officials recently concluded a series of talks here with Jewish leaders on closer relations. The Palestinian issue was seen to be one of the most difficult obstacles. The Israelis will naturally take any move giving greater legitimacy to the PLO.

The delicacy of the Vatican's position is shown by the fact that the meeting with the Jews brought a warning from Catholics and other Christians in Jordan against a "victory for Zionism".

Mr Kaddoumi's visit, which begins on Tuesday, includes talks with members of the Italian Government on relations with the PLO. This is not new, however, because it will be his third visit and he has also met Italian ministers outside Italy.

Gaddafi's Austrian mission



Public worship: Colonel Gaddafi of Libya leaving the mosque at Vienna's Islamic Centre, after attending prayers there yesterday. Chanting supporters mingled with security agents in the crowd.

The Colonel changes his plan

From David Blow, Vienna, March 12

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, on the third day of his visit to Austria, attended Friday prayers at the mosque in Vienna, and visited the city's Islamic Centre, instead of travelling to Linz and Salzburg, as originally planned.

In Linz he was to have toured the Voest steel plant, but the Libyan Minister for Heavy Machinery was sent instead. The change of plan was decided by Colonel Gaddafi yesterday. The reasons are not altogether clear, but probably have a great deal to do with Colonel Gaddafi's well-known impulsiveness and unpredictability.

The Austrians, aware of this, have said all along that the programme was subject to last-minute alterations. Colonel Gaddafi's decision not to go to Salzburg saved Dr Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, one small embarrassment; Salzburg's conservative provincial Governor had claimed a prior engagement as an excuse for not attending the official banquet. The Governor's decision to absent himself reflected the strong critical attitude towards the visit of the country's conservative opposition.

When the visit was first announced on Monday, Dr Kreisky insisted that its main purpose was to promote bilateral trade. This always was improbable, and has suffered something of a setback with the Libyan announcement that they want to pay with oil

for future purchases of Austrian goods. In a speech last night at a dinner for Colonel Gaddafi, the Austrian Chancellor laid much stronger emphasis on the political aspects of the visit. Dr Kreisky told the Libyan leader that his visit could have importance for the future if it marked the beginning of a new Libyan orientation towards Europe.

He said that he did not want Libya and other African states to get the impression that Europe was willing to allow the Communist countries to monopolize relations with them. The visit had strengthened his conviction that there were many unexploited opportunities for understanding between Libya and the Western democracies, and in particular, he said, the United States. Answering one of his critics who have accused him of deliberately provoking the United States, Dr Kreisky emphasized Austria's total ideological friendship with "the great American democracy and its people".

At a press conference last night, Colonel Gaddafi warned that the economic war that the United States was waging against Libya would hurt others as well, and appealed to West European countries to stand by him in the face of what he called American aggression. West European countries would lose billions of dollars in trade with Libya, he said, if Libya was no longer able to sell its oil.

SABOTEURS PICK WRONG VINTAGE

From Our Correspondent, Paris, March 12

Protesting French growers who emptied 60,000 litres of wine from vats in the Mediterranean port of Sete yesterday chose the wrong target, according to the wine's owners.

The demonstrators, who blasted the vats open with explosives, thought the wine that poured out was Italian and that they had struck a fresh blow in their campaign against cheap imports from Italy. But the wine was actually French, a spokesman for the cooperative which owns the vat said today.

The attack, which turned the canal running through Sete wine red, was the most spectacular recent episode in the long-running war against Italian imports by growers in the mass-production wine area along the south-west Mediterranean coast of France.

It was clearly designed as a warning shot to the French Government, which has been given until late this month to apply a European court ruling that 340,000 hectolitres of Italian wine held at frontier posts must be released for distribution.

Although no group has claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack, the protesters were well organized and showed their awareness of the value of publicity by taking with them a cameraman from a local television station.

Further protests are being discussed for the weeks ahead, leading up to a rally on March 31. M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, today condemned the attack.

Khomeini regime sets up own Savak

By Edward Mortimer

A Ministry of State Security and Intelligence is to be established in Iran, under a Bill introduced into the Iranian Parliament on Thursday.

The name of the new ministry is identical to that of Savak, the secret police of the Shah's regime, except that the word "ministry" is substituted for "Organization".

Iranian exiles in Europe have seized on this development as an admission of the Khomeini regime's oppressive nature and growing isolation from the people.

The Labour Party is to establish formal contacts with the National Council of Resistance, a Paris-based group of Iranian oppositionaries headed by Mr Masud Rajavi, leader of the left-wing Muslim "People's Mujahidin" guerrilla organization.

A resolution passed unanimously on Tuesday by the international committee of the National Executive welcomes the formation of the council and expresses the party's intention to open a dialogue "to establish the most appropriate means by which we can lend our support to the democratic and socialist forces among the Iranian people".

It also urged the Council to "consider widening its base so that all progressive forces of the Iranian people can join it". Some left-wing Iranian parties, while sympathetic to the council, have hesitated to join it because they feel Mr Rajavi has not given sufficiently detailed guarantees about democracy and human rights, or about autonomy for minorities, such as the Kurds, if he comes to power in Iran. They are anxious not to repeat the blank cheque given to Ayatollah Khomeini in 1979.

Mr Rajavi's office in Paris has released a statement giving details of doctors and nurses executed and tortured by the Khomeini regime. It listed 14 doctors whose executions have been announced officially and said that 15 others had not been announced.

Ayatollah Khomeini has appointed a new member of Iran's Council of Guardians, Tehran Radio said yesterday (Reuters report). The radio identified the new member as Hojatolislam Muhammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani, a former Prime Minister. He replaces Ayatollah Rabani-Shirazi, killed in a car accident on Tuesday.

Next on the European agenda—dubbed TV

From George Clark, Strasbourg, March 12

A European television channel transmitted via satellites could be in operation by 1983, the European Parliament in Strasbourg was told yesterday. The same pictures, covering news, politics, entertainment, education and sport, would be received in each European country, dubbed into the local language.

Parliament approved a resolution, presented by Herr Wilhelm Hahn, (West Germany) on behalf of the Youth and Information Committee, calling on broadcasting authorities in all 10 member states to make the fifth channels of the national satellites, expected to be in orbit in 1985, available to the European programme produced under the aegis of the European Broadcasting Union.

Test transmissions from the satellite will be made on a closed circuit between May 24 and May 30 this year and the programmes, according to Herr Hahn, will be monitored for quality by a specially selected audience. Language being the big problem, experiments will be made with dubbing and dubbing. Countries taking part are the United Kingdom, Italy, The Netherlands, West Germany, Belgium and Ireland.

Herr Hahn saw the advent of a Euro-channel as a decisive factor in creating closer cohesion between the peoples of Europe. "European unification will come only if the people want it," he said. "At present, information via the mass media is controlled at national level. Most journalists do not think European because their reporting role is defined in national or regional terms. Hence the predominance of negative reporting."

After the vote Mr Alasdair Hutton, Conservative MEP for South Scotland, a former broadcaster, said the programme would include direct broadcasts from the European Parliament.

"A European programme would be the ideal way to broaden our horizons," he said. "It would not cut out local programmes. It would offer an extra choice. This is not a pipe dream. A typical evening could start with a European news magazine, followed by sport, then a French serial, a German popular music programme, a British documentary and an Italian film."

What's got into The Sunday Times?

If it wasn't for the name on the front cover of tomorrow's edition of our Colour Magazine, you could be forgiven for thinking it was something else.

Especially when you find another front cover two-thirds of the way through.

"Look"—our new-style magazine within a magazine, with features on beauty, food, fashion and gardening—leads tomorrow with a

fascinating insight into the behind-the-scenes world of Yves St Laurent.

While the main Magazine carries in-depth features on the socialist who lives like an Emperor, some non-starters in the Space Race, and some extraordinary Kenyan elephants that actually...well, the new-look Sunday Times Magazine is out tomorrow.

Why don't you see it for yourself?

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The new-look Sunday Times Magazine...with the new 'Look' Magazine inside.

Traveller's Tales: in the first of an occasional series, Ted Simon revisits Brazil

Cockroaches and 10 dollars a day

Emily Macey, Jacky Steen, Sam McMahon, Nora Fundation and the rest of the crowd got on the same plane with me at Miami. They were under the general guidance of George Stegner, a man of distinction in his loose yet immaculate seersucker jacket and cotton pants. He had obviously done this kind of thing many times and seemed even to enjoy it.

There was a mix-up on the seating, and the Varig steward had to shuffle some Brazilian passengers about, because George wasn't going to let his party fray at the edges, not even on the plane. He flashed his big smile at them. "OK? OK! Everything's OK." Then the plane took off to the Amazon.

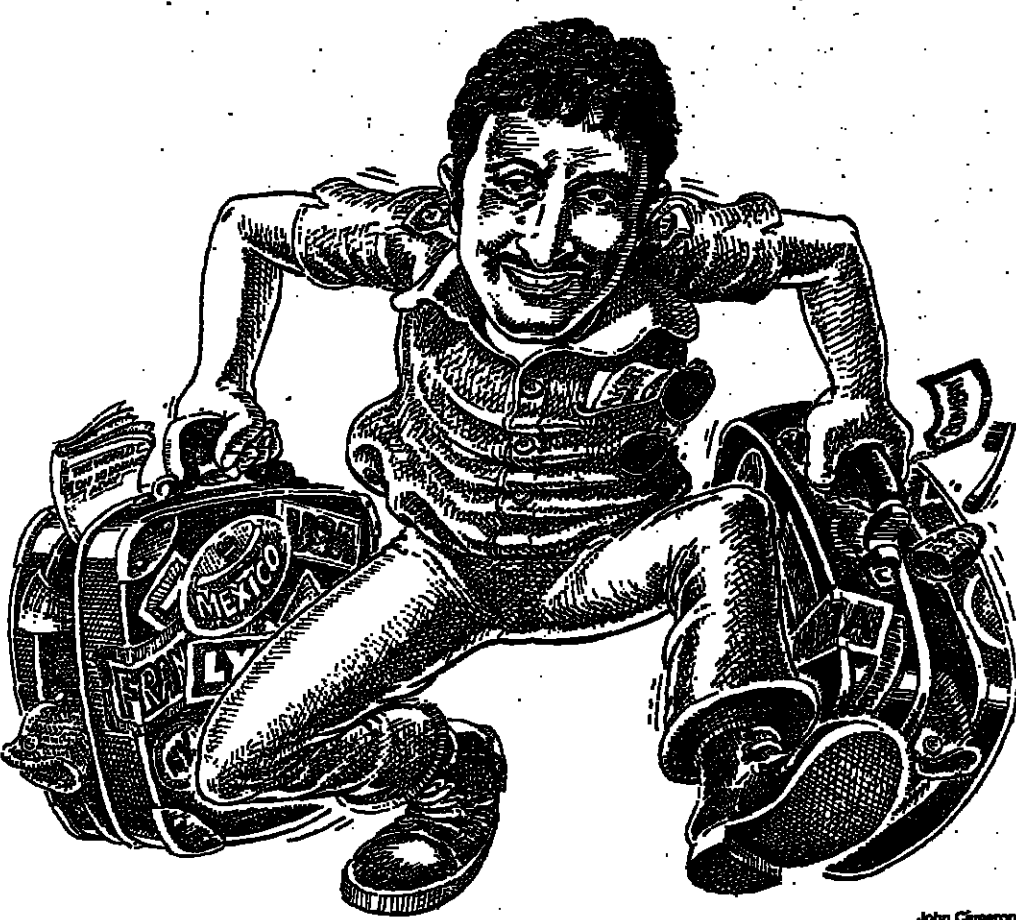
I watched them, gleaming their names from their lapel badges, with confusion and misgivings. I had already flown nine hours from London (Laker £95) and waited three more hours at the airport for another five hours. I would arrive at Manaus (Varig £265). A long time to be flying, but a ridiculously short time to be transported from London in winter to the heart of the equatorial rain forest, where I had never been before.

I was last in Brazil eight years ago, when I arrived at one of the northern ports on a grimy Greek freighter from Mombasa, having already ridden the length of Africa on a motorcycle. I should have been perfectly prepared for any experience, yet the shock of culture and climate so unbalanced me that I got myself locked away for a fortnight as a potential threat to the regime. What could I expect this time?

My confusion was caused by my companions a board. What was a seasoned and intrepid traveller like myself doing in such a place? They looked as though they might never have left Greenville, Kentucky, since their respective honeymoons at Niagara. Were we really going to the same place, across the same threshold?

In a sense, we weren't. They were destined, I supposed, to be transported through the 95 per cent humidity in air-conditioned coaches to an air-conditioned hotel. They would visit the opera house and make a cautious boat trip to the shore of the Amazon (actually not the Amazon at all, but the Rio Negro) to a carefully chosen settlement where they would be exposed to Indian "crafts" and festooned with beads and floral tributes.

Feeling vaguely uncomfortable, they would absorb as much of all this as they could through their cameras before flying on to Rio and eventually Greenville, where they would have a really great time showing slides, eating, drinking too much, and feel stupid every time I opened my mouth and... the problem was I really couldn't remember any more what it



John Cameron

was like in that other world where most of the human race still proliferates. Even reading my own notes, written years before, failed to restore the smells and tastes and touches of what we are pleased to call Third World poverty. I read how, after 13 months in Latin America, I had gone to a Los Angeles supermarket and felt physically sick at the obscene glut of idiotic, wasteful and unnecessary goods, but I could not honestly relive that feeling any more, nor the emotion that prompted it.

And although I had experienced great pleasures and rewards "out there", when I tried to recall them now they seemed trite and banal. But I did know for certain that I had lost something extremely precious and important to my life, and my main purpose in flying out here was to recover it.

The plane landed at three in the morning. Emily, Sam, Nora, George and the rest were quickly swept away on their pre-ordained course. I decided to spend the rest of the night sitting at the airport until my arteries stopped flaring and my mind caught up with my body. In any case, the kind of hotel I meant to patronize would not be functioning too well at that hour.

The airport soon emptied, leaving me alone under a huge concrete canopy open to the dark night air. Occasionally a husky female voice breathed flight information down on me from concealed speakers with the startling fidelity and intimacy

of a big-screen love affair. I dozed, then read through the golden pages of the *South American Handbook* (Britain's finest contribution to travel literature). There I found hotels ranging from £1 to £15 a night, and chose one, warmly recommended for its renovations and new management, at £2.50, thinking that my jet lag deserved some consideration. At nine I took the bus into Manaus.

And then it began. At the first bend in the road my luggage flew across the bus as we leaned over on two wheels. I had forgotten about the buses. The sweet smell of corruption (the material kind) overwhelmed me. The soft wet air enveloped me. I really had forgotten everything.

As I trudged from the bus station, streaming sweat, my sense of order and purpose collapsed in the general mess of rot and rubble and ridden rubbish that fills all the spaces where human traffic is insufficient to grind it down or push it aside.

I had forgotten the stench and roar and the aggression of the traffic, and the riotous variety of human shapes and conditions, from the paralytically drunk or diseased Indian stumbling his last ragged hours in the gutter to the exquisitely pressed and starched clothes and impassive faces of the well-to-do professional men picking at it by radar the perfect route for their impeccable shoes through the minefield of potholes and puddles that constitutes an average pavement.

Dragging my two bags, which already seemed much heavier than I had intended, I staggered up a hill to the Hotel Aurora. Just how much I had forgotten came home to me there. Beneath an impressively modern sign rising the full three stories of the building, the hotel entrance was like the door to a broom cupboard.

I was shown a room so utterly mean and miserable that I almost despaired; an eight foot square box of painted cement with no external window, only a row of louvre panes plump with dust looking on to the corridor, narrow mattress on one end, covered only with sheets too short and thin enough to see through, walls and ceiling impregnated with grime; a fan leaning precariously off the wall over the bed, held by a piece of fraying string; and a short coat hanging and marked down disavantages.

I would have liked to find George Stegner's group again and ask them what they had made of it all, but I could not trace them at any of the luxury hotels in Manaus. Which leaves me with a recurring and troubling fantasy: that they, Nora Fundation and company, are even now crewing a dug-out canoe up the Amazon towards Colombia through a hail of poison darts, with dependable George at the prow, three most stable on his chuck and a shotgun across his knee. If such things were possible I would have a lot of explaining to do.

That afternoon I explored a few other hotels mentioned in the handbook. They were undeniably grubbier. The acid test, that night, was the fat brown cockroach on my pillow when I switched on the light. It was large — two inches long at least — and probably quite elderly, since it was very slow to pick up of sight. I found it nauseating and had some difficulty forcing myself to lie down, yet at the same time I knew that only a few years ago I would scarcely have noticed

the beast; indeed I used to defend cockroaches against their loathsome reputation, for I could never discover the harm they did.

The purpose of this catalogue of woes is not to solicit pity but to demonstrate how ready tolerance is distorted by habit. Now as I write, 48 hours later, I find my room quite spacious. The hotel seems clean and friendly. I appreciate the fan in my room for its modern, silent three-speed action, because I now recall vividly the rusty, wheezing motors I knew at other times. I admire especially the tiled and polished floors, more level and hygienic than any other surfaces I have seen in Manaus so far. The cockroach has not returned but if it did I doubt that it would trouble me.

The life in the streets is immensely invigorating. People never open their mouths without smiling or laughing, and they show themselves, whatever their colour or circumstance, to be happier than any comparable swath of humanity off the streets of London or New York. I have already recovered one of the great pleasures of life, forgotten for some time: the release from ever wanting to have something or do something. The habit of compulsive action and compensatory consumption (which is like the air most of us breathe) takes years to discard, but because I lost it once before it is easier to throw off now.

I still feel fat and sticky, and I suppose here we can afford it. I probably drink too much beer. But I have crossed the line, and what it comes down to is feeling better on 10 dollars a day than Emily, Sam and Nora do on 50. There will be no more of my descent into the gutters of Latin America. These subjective findings, which form the basis of a sort of social relativity theory, seem far more important to me than meticulous observations of flora and fauna. The enforced change of habits and customs is what makes travel worthwhile, and gives the writer, and I hope the reader, a glimpse of where we stand in the general throng of humanity and a chance to count blessings and mark down disadvantages.

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Why has the official Labour response to Mr Pat Wall been so muted? He said in a speech last week that a Marxist Labour government would have to abolish the monarchy and the House of Lords, and sack the generals, admirals and air marshals, the senior civil servants and police chiefs, and in particular, the judges. Not quite what one would expect to read in the next Labour manifesto.

So on Monday the organization sub-committee of the National Executive Committee considered after his position as prospective parliamentary candidate for Bradford North, a role to which he has been elected in preference to the sitting right-wing MP, Mr Ben Ford, by the local constituency party. Mr Wall's position as general management committee — but in which he has not yet been confirmed by the NEC.

The organization sub-committee recommended that the local selection procedure should be conducted again. But it took this decision not because of Mr Wall's speech but because the matter had already been referred back to it by the NEC on account of technical irregularities in the first selection.

There is no confidence, however, in the mainstream of the party — ranging from the right to the traditional or Tribune left — that Mr Wall will now be unseated by the party in Bradford. It will be the same general management committee that takes the decision. Indeed, if the NEC later this month simply acts on the recommendation and just reappoints the Bradford constituency to go through its paces again it may even strengthen Mr Wall's position.

If he is confirmed as the constituency party's choice in a selection procedure with no irregularities this time, would it not be all the harder later to reject him on account of the speech? Might the NEC not be implying that he would be acceptable so long as the local selection procedure is regular?

Nor has the parliamentary leadership been as forthright as it might have been. Mr Foot has indeed reaffirmed the party's attachment to the parliamentary democracy. But at the meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party on Thursday evening, Mr Jeffrey Rooker, a member of the traditional left, complained that this was not enough. The Shadow Cabinet should have declared roundly that the Labour Party supports the constitutional monarchy and that a Labour government would not insist on any constitutional changes through the process of enabling legislation which would not afford an adequate opportunity for parliamentary scrutiny.

What then happened? Why should the NEC, not following the line of Mr Hattersley, who said on television on Sunday that Mr Wall was not a legitimate candidate for the Labour Party to endorse? Or of Mr Shore, who has said that it was clearly folly for the NEC to endorse any new candidates from the Militant Tendency while it was itself under inquiry? Does the leadership not appreciate the extent to which people like Mr Wall undermine the credibility of the party in the eyes of the electorate? Or does it hope that all the fuss will just blow over?

The answer is that a deliberate waiting game is being played. The idea is to postpone the main battle on Mr Wall and other Militants until after the report has been received from the official party inquiry into the



Pat Wall: his local party has been told to go through the selection procedure again — but there is no confidence in the mainstream of the party that he will be unseated.

Militant Tendency, and good care will be taken to see that this report is not available until after the local elections in May.

There is a great deal of concern not to rock the boat more than is absolutely necessary before then. But once those elections are over it would be a good moment for the NEC to act upon the basis of a report concluding that the Tendency was infringing Clause Two of the Labour constitution by acting in effect as a party within the party and possibly that there had also been financial irregularities affecting Militant.

That is the theory. But its application in practice will depend on a number of assumptions proving correct. The first, that the report states will be forthrightly condemning Militant. Confidence is now growing within the party that it will be. But the critical question then will be what the NEC will do about it. Will Mr Foot

provide a strong lead? And is the balance of power on the NEC still such as to give him the controlling power when he cares to exercise it?

The record of this year's NEC has been disappointing up to now. At the end of the Brighton conference in October there was a good deal of confidence on the right and in the centre of the party that the balance on the new NEC had been decisively shifted away from the left on the critical issues. This was based on the belief that Mr Foot would throw his weight against the left for the sake of order and stability, and that the traditional or moderate left would go with him on the major questions.

It has worked like that only occasionally, such as in the rejection of Mr Peter Tatchell as the candidate for Bermondsey. More often Mr Foot has preferred to pursue the holy grail of party unity. This has meant bestowing tolerance on those who are not prepared to do the very ones partly because of his recollection of his own days as a party rebel, he has frequently expressed his abhorrence of witch hunts. His most endearing qualities as a man have been the very ones which have undermined his performance as leader in these harsh conditions.

Some on the right put their trust in his weakness. They believe he is a man who can be leaned upon. The trouble is that a man who can be leaned upon from one direction can also be leaned upon from another. Mr Foot has been persuaded that if he did anything more terrible to the Militant Tendency than wring his hands he would thereby be sacrificing the spirit of Bishop's Stortford.

The uncomfortable truth is that it would be impossible for him or for any other leader to keep everybody in the party happy and to give the electorate the assurance it will want that Labour is not becoming increasingly in thrall to the hard left.

The reason for the growing confidence in the party mainstream — including a number of the traditional left — that the NEC will take action against Militant is that it is believed that if he did anything more terrible to the Militant Tendency than wring his hands he would thereby be sacrificing the spirit of Bishop's Stortford.

To condemn Militant is one thing: to find the means of taking effective action against all those who are of the Tendency will be more difficult. But the whole strategy of the waiting game depends on the assumption that delay does not matter because, when the moment comes to act, it will be possible to do the job thoroughly.

On the first weekend of the 1982 Bradford tourist season, Ian Bradley reports on how visitors are being lured to the city of derelict warehouses and disused railway cuttings.

As factories and workshops go on short time or close, railway sidings rust and shops are boarded up, the industrial parts of the city come more and more to resemble a derelict urban wasteland, the symbols of their former strength and prosperity standing like tombstones of a lost civilization.

Seen from another point of view these areas provide an enormous potential museum of Britain's industrial past. With industrial archaeology and railway mania among the fastest growing national pastimes, can tourists not be lured to the dark, satanic mills and derelict sidings of northern towns where once the only thought was of escape to the warm south?

This idea of reversing the normal flow of tourist traffic within Britain is being taken up by a number of northern industrial cities. None has seized it with quite such enthusiasm as the metropolitan district of Bradford which is building a successful tourist industry on the basis of its mills, old railway lines and other relics of the days when it was Worstedsopolis, the woollen textile capital of the world.

Bradford suffers from what the advertising men would call severe image problem when it comes to promoting its charms as a tourist resort. It has the unenviable distinction for example, of having the least visited cathedral in the British Isles.

In fact the business of promoting tourism has been taken very seriously by the city fathers. It is undertaken by the council's economic development unit (whose motto is "the myth breakers") which two years ago appointed a full-time tourism officer, Maria Glor. Last year she received more than 8,000 inquiries about the weekend breaks which are the most successful features

Bradford, gateway to the past

of Bradford's tourist programme.

This weekend sees the start of the 1982 season and the first of a series of weekends based on West Yorkshire's extensive steam railway network. A group of enthusiasts will be exploring the delights of the Middleton colliery railway, the first in the world to have a steam powered locomotive (in 1812), which is now run by enthusiasts to carry scrap metal from the main line to local firms as well as for passenger trips.

Also included in the weekend tour are visits to two of the country's best known preserved railways, the North Valley between Keighley and Oxenhope, and the Yorkshire Dales, and to the National Railway Museum in York.

The railway weekends will be alternating with weekends exploring Bradford's industrial heritage. They proved particularly popular last year, the highlight being a visit to Saltaire, the model village created by the great Victorian industrialist and philanthropist, Sir Titus Salt, to house the workers in his enormous worsted mill which still dominates the Aire valley. There is also a tour of Bradford's wool warehouses,



Steaming ahead on the Worth Valley line

now gradually being converted to wine bars and casinos.

The great majority of those who went on the industrial heritage weekends last year were from the south. More than 10 per cent hailed from London. It is not difficult to see the attraction. Going round Salt's enormous mill, which is still working, is to step back into conditions which most southerners only know about from books and television programmes about the Industrial Revolution.

The noise of the spinning and weaving machines is deafening, the stench of the dyeing vats overpowering. The machinery is still essentially the same as that found in Bradford's industrial museum and much of it is operated, as it always has been, by women.

It would be hard to find a more powerful expression of the two nations theme than the vision of well-heeled pen pushers from the stockbroker being coming up north to watch the manual working classes and inspect the monuments to their toil. Yet Bradfordians show no sense of envy or discomfiture about the new status as quaint relics of a vanishing industrial civilization. Rather they display to their visitors an intense pride in their past and present achievements and regale them with the straightforward, practical philosophizing which has always been part of the Yorkshire character.

If they are to go the way of the Greeks and Portuguese, they will do so with dignity, with a proper Pennine pride, and with a good deal of honest West Riding grit.

Ian Bradley

Why Mayor Koch should run and run

Sitting under a Matisse in his office at Gracie Mansion, Mayor Koch is not unlike the odalisque in the painting. Edward Irving Koch, the 61-year-old Jewish Mayor of New York, tells a favourite story. "I was in a pensioners' home in the Bronx and I was addressing nearly 200 elderly men and women. I said, 'I know crime is on your mind and I want to tell you that a judge was mugged this week... and do you know what he did, ladies and gentlemen? He called a press conference and said to reporters, "This mugging of me will in no way affect my judgment and decisions in matters of this kind." At which point one of those old grandmas who always get at the back of the hall stood up and said "then mug him again!"

That story always gets a few laughs and "Hizoner" the Mayor is fond of jokes, well satisfied that he is known, variously, as "Mayor Culpa", "Mayatollah" and "New York's master". He regularly refers to his critics as "dummies" and once called Billy Carter a "whacker".

His answers to reporters' questions frequently run only to one word: "baloney" or "bullshit". Koch is well aware of the impact of such slogans and he appreciates the value, in television-dominated milieu, of the quick quip, the witty aside that makes an ideal 30-second television spot. Many of the best quotes about him are his own, such as "People like me because I shoot from the hip".

That popularity has continued long enough for it to be now considered an interesting phenomenon because it means that although Koch often seems to shoot his mouth off casually he is nevertheless expressing what a good many Americans feel inside. The simple one-liners are not as simple as they sound and are in fact this politician's direct way of communicating with the public without the intervening and possibly distorting medium of a reporter or television interviewer.

As recently as last year he said that his row at the Walling Wall in Jerusalem was "binding". More recently he was re-elected

Mayor of New York having been endorsed by both Democratic and Republican parties. The second is the more crucial fact.

Koch's own political views are changing and what we are seeing is a new political philosophy being worked out, and in public. He is, for the most part, a bundle of moods and views that were once contradictory (like being a liberal and being for capital punishment) but now no longer appear so. He is no ideologue, has an abhorrence of them, and seeks refuge in the way of the SDP in Britain, that for the time being people do not want ideologies of any kind thrust at them.

He knows that if he can tap the mood of the state, he has undoubtedly tapped the mood of the city, there will be no stopping him. Nobody has mentioned the White House yet — but Koch himself, when announcing that he would run for Governor last week, refused to rule out higher office such as the Vice-Presidency (and who, deep down, wants that when he can have the other?)

Important as it is to understand his style and what it means, it would mean nothing without some achievements, however controversial. So what are they?

When Koch took over New York, on January 1, 1978 the city was virtually bankrupt and facing a massive deficit. By last year, 12 months ahead of schedule, New York's books were indeed balanced, and with a surplus of 200m dollars. Koch did this by limiting the increase in city spending to less than 4 per cent a year, compared with 11 per cent by the Federal government, and by eliminating thousands of city jobs. He did it too by encouraging businesses to come back to New York through tax cuts and an increase in the budget of the Office for Economic Development, which looks after services to industry.

As a result, 110,000 new jobs have been created in the city in the past 18 months, spare capacity has declined from 15 per cent in 1976 to 3 per cent now, retail sales have surged by 16 per cent and last year the city security bonds regained their credit rating as a good investment.



Mayor Koch: a man of the people

co-operation. Koch sought and gave New York the 2,000m dollar loan guarantees needed to get the city going again.

By last year, 12 months ahead of schedule, New York's books were indeed balanced, and with a surplus of 200m dollars. Koch did this by limiting the increase in city spending to less than 4 per cent a year, compared with 11 per cent by the Federal government, and by eliminating thousands of city jobs. He did it too by encouraging businesses to come back to New York through tax cuts and an increase in the budget of the Office for Economic Development, which looks after services to industry.

As a result, 110,000 new jobs have been created in the city in the past 18 months, spare capacity has declined from 15 per cent in 1976 to 3 per cent now, retail sales have surged by 16 per cent and last year the city security bonds regained their credit rating as a good investment.

brought Koch some vociferous critics. The 75,000 city jobs saved, for instance, have involved cutting the police force by a massive 20 per cent, 19,000 teachers have gone, along with 2,000 of the city's 2,500 road sweepers. Consequently, many of the city services have, in the words of a Citybank economist, "been brought to the point of breakdown".

Crime worries almost everyone. Robberies are at an all-time high, although the Mayor is never slow to point out that New York is only "only" ninth nationally in crime statistics, and is not even No. 1 in rape and murder. The subway system (not directly the Mayor's responsibility) is a disgrace — old, inefficient and unsafe. This has provoked a vicious circle: numbers riding the subway are decreasing and this has forced the system into an annual deficit in excess of 100,000 dollars. The tunnel under Park Avenue has just been declared in danger of collapse by some engineers and the city's water system leaks 100 million gallons of water every day.

In this year's budget, Koch has decided that the city can afford 1,000 more policemen, 1,000 more teachers and 400 more school guards. Fine, say his critics but they see this only as proof of their argument. Koch got rid of the policemen and teachers in the first place — and why do the schools need those guards?

There is a strong faction which contends that Koch's policies have for the most part benefitted the white middle-class in the city, at the expense of blacks and Hispanics. The improvement in conditions for businesses has helped whites, the noticeable deterioration in services has adversely affected minorities.

It is fair to say that Koch is a shade ambivalent about this. On the one hand he points out that he has appointed a higher proportion of blacks to top administrative jobs than any of the three mayors who preceded him. On the other hand, he Hispanics allegedly he is against affirmative action programmes, so much so that he cannot go into some areas

without bodyguards.

The Mayor, for his part, does not deny he is a friend to the middle-class. He wants the middle-class to know they have a friend in city hall, that when people mocked them in the Sixties, they were wrong. The middle-class was right. Honesty, Industriousness, all of it.

If Koch deserves a lot of the credit for making New York a richer, but dirtier, noisier, less safe city, he is also the first to acknowledge the luck, both good and bad, which he has been saddled with. For example, inflation, business sales, income and business taxes have gone up 50 per cent in his term, adding 1,000m dollars annually to the city coffers.

On the other hand, New York has a fiscal burden which Koch thinks wrong. The sludge factory is one: Federal regulations insist that the city processes waste sludge and must not dump it at sea, which Koch thinks is just as safe and would save \$5m dollars a year. The Medicaid system is another. New York is the only city to contribute 25 per cent of its Budget itself — most other places pay less than 10 per cent. (But changes are afoot there).

These are perhaps the usual things a politician has to juggle with, and Koch's record, when you examine it, would probably not set him apart from any other successful politician. That is why we must turn back to his style: many ways he is a real man of the people. No one would call him good-looking or glamorous — he waits in the queue at cinemas, does not expect any special treatment.

Koch calls himself a "liberal with sanity". Others say he is now a neo-conservative or a crypto-Republican. The best description is probably Irving Kristol's, who said Koch is a Democrat "mugged by reality".

As Koch knows only too well, there's a lot of mugging about. In an era of diminishing expectations, Mayor Koch has correctly calculated that in political reality the better weapon than optimism

Peter Watson



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CARE FOR THE COURTESIES

When a previous Pope — it was Pius IX in 1850 — proposed, not to visit his flock in England, but merely to organize them in dioceses it was the Prime Minister, no less, who led the counter-attack against papal aggression. Writing to his friend the Bishop of Durham Lord John Russell denounced the move as insolent and insidious, declared his indignation to be greater even than his alarm, and declared even his alarm at the pretensions of a foreign sovereign to be less than his alarm at the conduct of the Tractarians, unworthy sons of the Church of England within her own gates. (That at any rate is John Morley's summary of its contents.) The letter was published in the newspapers on the day it was dated, which was November 4. Next day's Guy Fawkes bonfires burned with an extra sparkle.

Things have moved on a bit since then, but Liverpool can still throw up a flicker of those fires. "No Popery" is now largely absent from polite society, has refuge still in a few fundamentalist, Calvinistic, isolated and impolitic congregations, and Liverpool (which is one of the two cities of Great Britain to have been colonized by the religious sociology of Belfast) can muster, or provide a venue for, a posse of zealots to shout obscene abuse at the Archbishop of Canterbury preaching and at prayer in the parish church, because he extends a hand of welcome to Pope John Paul II. It was an outrage, borne with dignity by Dr. Kuncic, but possibly salutary reminder that all is not as smooth in Christian

England as a ride in the ecumenical limousine.

The Pope was invited to England, with an extension to Scotland, by his own bishops here; and the purpose of the visit is stated to be pastoral. He will, for half a day, at Canterbury, also be the guest of the Church of England, though the proceedings are planned to embrace all the other considerable Christian churches in the land. It is not a "state" visit. The Pope does not make them. The fact that he is head of the Vatican state is least of his dignities. But this Pope's journeys have assumed some of the characteristics of a royal progress. It is at this point that various misgivings appear.

One is that, if the expectation is entertained of a multitudinous triumph of the sort achieved elsewhere, the Pope's party may be disappointed. The English and Scots are not famously demonstrative, except at football, and Roman Catholics are not all that thick on the ground; and while the Pope is also a controversial figure, some of whose moral admonitions provoke contradiction outside and even inside his communion.

Another aspect of the visit that more directly concerns the reformed churches in Britain is that of protocol and symbolism. Churchmanship on this island is of many colours. All bar the orange range mean to deal courteously with the papal visit. Most have uttered representative words of welcome of varying warmth. A few look forward to a measurable quickening of

the pace of church unity. But all are sensitive to the formalities, and the possibility that they may be placed in positions of unwarranted deference.

Two examples: at Canterbury there was to have been a formal gathering at which the Pope would address assembled representatives of the reformed churches. That has tactfully been converted into a circulatory session in which they will mingle on terms of equality. In Scotland the Pope wishes to meet the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland but the only time his tour operators could at first find was breakfast time, although it had been assumed that the meeting would take place at a more commodious time of day. Trivia, perhaps. But when long-controverted questions of status and subordination arise these trivia count. There is a wish to be welcoming, an acknowledgment that much of a doctrinal nature that excited hostility has now been adjusted between Anglicanism or Protestantism and Rome. But still care is taken lest anyone be compromised by the symbolism of the occasion.

This will call for much sensitivity on the part of those who steer the Pope through his engagements. There is no reason to doubt that the sensitivity will be attempted, only whether it will be achieved. As for the advancement of church unity, observance of these nuances implies that the process is seen, not as one of absorption, but as mutual recognition more fully and more freely granted.

VOTING THE STRASBOURG WAY

How to elect the members of the European Parliament, for which the second direct elections are to be held in 1984, has come to the fore again. Last time, in 1979, it was agreed that each country could choose its own system, so Britain (but not Northern Ireland) kept its traditional method of first-past-the-post in the new European constituencies. But this time the intention is to have the same electoral system in each of the ten member countries of the Community. The first steps in this direction have now been taken by the Parliament itself, which voted this week in favour of a regional list system, a form of proportional representation widely used by the Conservative and Labour, were almost alone in voting against the resolution.

Should Britain hold put again for its own individual system, whether it be first-past-the-post or the additional member system, another form of proportional representation which was proposed by the Conservatives in Strasbourg this week? It has the opportunity to do so, because the Strasbourg vote is only advisory, and the matter will now come before the Council of Ministers, where any decision has to be unanimous. And after that the Council's decision has to be approved by national parliaments.

At a time when Britain's "European" credentials are being called into question, this would hardly seem to be an issue on which to have another row with our partners. It is not as if the results of the 1979 elections revealed some superior brand of democracy. On the contrary, the "first-past-the-post" system when applied to the large European constituencies produced a very unbalanced result, with over-representation of the Conservatives, Labour, and no Liberals at all. So the case for some form of proportional representation at the European level is strong, particularly since it has already been used in Northern Ireland.

There are, of course, objections to the regional list system: chief of which is that it favours the party organizations too much, while losing the concept that an MEP has a responsibility towards a particular constituency. The additional member system or that of the single transferable vote, used last time in both parts of Ireland, are not open to the same objection. But the real resistance at Westminster will come from the fear that adoption of any form of proportional representation at the European level will be the thin end of the wedge, leading irresistibly to the introduction of a similar system in purely British elections. However it would be quite appropriate to have different systems for the two types of election. The main argument in favour of the first-past-the-post system is that it is the best way of getting a clear result in favour of one party, so that a stable government can be formed. But that does not apply to the European elections, which do not issue in a government, but simply seek to ensure a fair representation of the main strands of political opinion.

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THE CHURN TURNS FULL CIRCLE

A coolness has arisen in Gloucestershire between the cows and the schoolchildren. Across the fence between pasture and playground, big long-lashed eyes exchange reproachful glances of nascent mistrust. The stage has not yet been reached where bands of parents invade the classrooms to stick health warnings in picture-books about life on the farm. But the first stirrings of another campaign for wholesomeness are unmistakably being borne on the spring air. A cloud falls on the pastoral childhood idyll of swelling udder and frothing pail, for parental concern is bound to communicate itself in spite of efforts at concealment: children are quick to sense atmosphere, so are cows.

It is all the fault of the EEC. After months of haggling at the great milking parlour in Brussels, representatives of the cattle of ten countries agreed in October to make a subsidy available from Community funds to schools supplying cheap milk to their pupils. Gloucestershire education committee is shortly to consider whether to take advantage of this provision, which is warmly

supported by Wilts and Glos National Farmers' Union. But a group led by a local doctor has put in a counter-plea that the scheme should be turned down, for fear that it might encourage obesity in the county's children and expose them, in later life, to the extra risk of heart disease associated with high blood cholesterol.

Belief in the unhealthiness of milk products is American in origin, and American fads often run well over here. There is some statistical evidence of risk, though in relation to the pupil's daily third of a pint (one-ninth to the floor, one-ninth down the jumper and one-ninth down the throat) it must be as remote as that associated with eating mint humbugs, or walking to school. But it is an established principle that in these matters danger is dangerous, and that no-one who quibbles over degree can claim to be a lover of children. The subsidy is expected to run to £11m this year. The placards and lapel badges practically write themselves: "Is £11m the price of our children's health?" and "Teacher leave that child alone. We don't want cholesterol." It is a debating advantage that the subsidy is from the EEC and therefore easily represented as a ploy by the agricultural lobby to unload more milk (a shameful and unjust imposition).

The campaign has all the marks of having high mileage potential. Only one thing jars. Only the other day, it seems, there was another campaign which ran and ran and gave much innocent pleasure to all who took part. It was against the decision of Mrs Thatcher, then Minister of Education, to stop schools giving free milk to children between seven and eleven. The opposition, which had abolished the same concession for children over 11 only a little earlier, proclaimed that this was the wickedest attack on childhood since Mr Bumble.

The slogan "Thatcher the Milk Snatcher" raised the future Iron Lady to national prominence: it can be said to have been the making of her politically. But where in the demonology will a milk snatcher figure now? Will the wheel turn full circle, and Mrs Thatcher, bearing cholesterol from Brussels, be made into a new bogey, the "Milk Lady"?

Support for PR

From Lord Harewood. Sir, The European Parliament has now voted for a common system of elections in all member countries by proportional representation. PR will ensure fair representation in the European Parliament of all major political opinions in the United Kingdom and bring us into line with the

practice of our European partners. Opinion polls in the United Kingdom have repeatedly shown overwhelming support for a fair electoral system. The case for such a system is even stronger where, as in the European Community, there is no question of a government being formed. May I appeal to the British Government, through your

columns, not to thwart the democratic will of the European Parliament and of the British people by trying to reverse this recommendation when it goes to the Council of Ministers for decision. Yours faithfully, HARLECH, House of Lords, March 11.

Press initiative in context of nuclear proliferation

From The Reverend Dr Kenneth Greet

Sir, Some months ago (October 21, 1981) you published a letter in which I argued that clear-cut moral and unilateral approaches to disarmament overlooked the fact that progress in the former depends on willingness to consider initiatives of the latter sort. I concluded with an appeal to President Reagan and President Brezhnev to go together to the UN Special Session on Disarmament. I said that if they jointly put forward some agreed plans this would be widely acknowledged as evidence of real statesmanship.

Two things have happened since then. I received telephone calls from both the American and Soviet Embassies asking me to receive their First Secretaries to discuss the matter. They came on separate occasions and gave me a full and courteous exposition of the foreign policies of their governments. The speeches they made were of a high quality. Both asserted the desire for peace, but both, with a sincerity that I found no cause to question, argued the regrettable necessity for massive arms expenditure to counter the real threat from the other side. It was altogether a distressing demonstration of the extent to which we become the victims and prisoners of our own propaganda.

My visitors left me with polite acknowledgements of the eminent wisdom of my proposal about the UN Special Session. But now a second thing has happened. We learn that President Reagan will at that very time be stealing the limelight in Europe when he attends the Council of NATO and that he expects to address the members of the British Parliament. I hope that large numbers of people will feel it right to persuade him that he would be better employed elsewhere. Yours sincerely, KENNETH G. GREET, Secretary of the Conference, The Methodist Church, Conference Office, 1 Central Buildings, Westminster, SW1 March 11.

From Mrs Elizabeth Young. Sir, There is one question that should be asked about Trident that was mentioned neither by you in your leader, "Trident's fourth dimension", nor by David Greenwood in his article, "A taxpayer's guide to Trident's true cost" (March 8). It is this: given that the unavoidable limits to the acquisition of more and more expensive weapons are now visible to most governments (including the Soviet and the American as well as the British), given that the US Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (SALT) should be beginning fairly soon, and given that no one has yet come up with a more plausible disarmament process than verified reductions to minimum deterrent level, we need to think about how Trident would make out for us in the context of SALT. The trouble is that five Trident

boats, be they C4 or D5, cannot be reduced to anything less, given in turn that five boats is the smallest number that makes strategic sense, and that the number of warheads in a missile, could not be verified other than over-intrusively.

Our present Polaris force would only enter the reduction lists fairly far on in a strategic arms reduction process; but a British Trident D5 force would become important in the overall equation considerably earlier, what then?

The trouble is that Tridents, whether C4 or D5, are, as units, too big. This is probably bad for the Americans too, who no doubt are buying Trident because it is there — just as we seem to be doing. But should not the British Government be looking rather further ahead than the shelf in front of it?

Yours etc, ELIZABETH YOUNG, 100 Bayswater Road, W2, March 11.

From Mr Patrick Duffy, MP for Sheffield, Attercliffe (Leamport). Sir, In an otherwise sympathetic assessment of the case for Trident you call on the Prime Minister in your leader of March 8 "to issue a full defence summary... at the earliest opportunity and insist that the costs be 'clearly spelled out'". What you do not make known is that the United Kingdom is a member of NATO and, therefore, you fail to insist that the case for Trident also be made against the background of overall Alliance strategy and objectives.

Recurrent allocation has become crucial for our Allies, as well as ourselves, as budgetary constraints intensify. Hence the recent emphasis on burden-sharing. As the division of task principle is increasingly adopted within the Alliance two perceptions must prevail. The first is that Trident is incremental at best, and a needless duplication at worst. The second is that Trident might hamper what is obviously the United Kingdom's most important contribution to the Alliance — her maritime role and in particular her anti-submarine warfare operational role in the Atlantic.

There has always been some debate over the relative importance of optional weapon systems, with the object of achieving the right mix in the light of the changing nature of the threat and increasing complexity of the operational environment. The danger that now confronts us, if I may continue to draw upon the United Kingdom's assigned maritime role, for example in the eastern Atlantic and Channel, where we provide 70 per cent of the ready force, is that the mix of weapon systems will reflect more and more budgetary pressure rather than operational need.

2. That deterrence, depending upon a flexible response, will be affected, for Trident adds nothing to the nuclear capacity of the United States, whereas the current cuts in the Royal Navy's

surface fleet strike at the other end of the flexible response spectrum. 3. That consequently John Nott's selection of weapon systems will reflect a narrowing of the options, such as increasing reliance on the hunter-killer submarines and maritime patrol aircraft, for example, rather than a balanced and interdependent force, including escort vessels and other surface units.

4. That such a development in conventional weaponry may have the effect of lowering the nuclear threshold as a dire consequence of a high-risk strategy in the north Atlantic in relation to reinforcement and supply.

This explains why there is hardly any support for Trident among our Allies. Where it exists in the United States it is more than matched by concern about the future size and shape of the Royal Navy's surface fleet. Clearly, a greater precision in Alliance priorities is required if we are to provide for the most efficient use of increasingly scarce resources. However, so long as the Prime Minister and Defence Secretary insist on maintaining the appearance of an all-round contribution by the United Kingdom to the Alliance, this Government's defence posture will remain unconvincing within the Alliance and its defence policy will remain confused.

Yours etc, PATRICK DUFFY, House of Commons, March 9.

From Mr George Delf. Sir, Nothing could better illustrate the accelerating degeneration of our civilization than your blood-chilling statement (March 8): "it is a very serious prospect to take the risk that at some future date we might be faced with the extinction of these islands, when in return we might only be able to threaten a few cities".

This is the suicidal criminality of the "balance of terror" rationalized to pave the way for the latest monstrosity, Trident. A few short years ago "unrestricted submarine warfare" was recognized by every major Power, including our own, as a war crime. Not because those ancient boats might destroy whole cities, but because it was thought criminal to sink unarmed merchant ships and leave the crew to drown. What innocence.

According to you we now have cause for shame when our latest submarines can only obliterate "a few cities". We are indeed becoming brutes in pin-striped suits.

Survival, of our civilization requires outright rejection of nuclear terrorism in all its morbid forms and an assertion that continued life on earth depends on a practical application of genuine mutual respect. The Soviet Union is a struggling, confused culture, clinging to outdated dogma. Just like ours.

Sincerely, GEORGE DELF, The Old Vicarage, Woodard, Suffolk.

important therapeutic and training activities because of alleged security risks which have more to do with prejudice than security. Governors and other senior staff often have little opportunity to influence even if they want the rehabilitation programme within the prison. There is a feeling abroad that the most important aspect of management expected by London is the containment of discontent by prisoners and staff alike. To that end, "accommodation" with some would say appeasement of — pressure groups is essential.

The majority of short and medium-stay prisoners are inadequate in terms of personality, training, personal relationships and other attributes required for modern life. Their containment in unsuitable buildings tends to attract a number of staff who are either authoritarian personalities or social dogooders. Either type merely aggravates the problems and eventually fail foul of the system.

As in all good management requirements, the remedy must come from the top. The top does not lead as it should. The physical conditions cannot be changed for a long time, but the use of the declining sums of money, in real terms, could be greatly improved and a new sense of purpose and policy given to the service. It would serve the uniformed staff just as much as the prisoners.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, ALAN RICHMOND, Jopmans, 6 Springfield Drive, Wedmore, Somerset.

relative should be consulted. This strikes me as providing adequate safeguards without hampering treatment unduly.

At the present time there is great difficulty in obtaining places in hospital for mentally disordered offenders and if added restrictions are placed on treatment it seems certain that the position will become even more difficult with the consequent imprisonment of those who rightly should be receiving treatment in hospital.

It is to be hoped that Professor Gumm's warning will be heeded to prevent the gross injustice that will follow even fewer mentally disordered offenders receiving the help they require and the already overloaded prison system being forced to cope with highly disruptive men and women with grossly inadequate facilities.

Yours faithfully, DOUGLAS I. ACRES, Chairman, Rochford Magistrates' Court, Thundersley Lodge, Rummymede Chase, Thundersley, Benfleet.

Remedies for unemployment

From Lord Taylor

Sir, It is seldom that I find myself in agreement with Lord Kaldor. But his letter (March 9) expresses precisely a fundamental truth. If unemployment is to be defeated by reflection, the unavoidable price to be paid is wage and salary control and price and rent control, with all the political struggling and bureaucracy which these involve. Otherwise the remedy is purely transient and the end result for the patient is worse than his first state.

Those who advocate "regulation" as a cure for unemployment (i.e. the leaders of the Labour and Social Democratic parties) must be repeatedly asked whether they are also advocating wage, price and salary control. If they will not come clean they are offering a dishonest prospectus. Only the Liberals seem to have accepted these unpalatable truths.

The Thatcher system of controlling prices by competition and monetary restraint, and wages by unemployment, has least the merit of logic, even if it is at the same time brutal. We can, as it were, choose amputation or splinting in perpetuity. What we cannot have is a cure by painless monetary injection, however big.

Yours faithfully, TAYLOR, House of Lords, March 11.

Budget question

From Mr Hugh Williams

Sir, Isn't it odd how, year after year, successive Chancellors fail to make the one logical, obvious and uncontroversial change in the Budget, namely to change the end of the income-tax year from April 5 to March 31?

All other tax years (ie corporation tax, VAT, etc) end on March 31; all other Government department accounts run to March 31. There is even a law which directs the Government to end all its financial years on March 31 and yet, for some extraordinary and unexplained reason, we still have to complete our tax returns with details that related to the illogical and maddeningly awkward year which begins on April 6 in one year and ends on April 5 in the next.

It would make far more sense if the income-tax return ran from April 1 to March 31.

Yours faithfully, HUGH WILLIAMS, Lower Willows, Peter Tavy, Tavistock, Devon.

Cattle market welfare

From Mr D. C. E. Roberts

Sir, In his letter (March 11) Mr Griffith rebukes his employers, the RSPCA, for making their cattle market inspectors redundant, and for doing the same to other authority inspectors and the ministry staff — cares about the welfare of animals in markets.

With respect, that claim is just not true, at least so far as this author is concerned, as its enforcement actions, including prosecutions, bear witness. We care and shall continue to care.

So far as the ministry are concerned, whilst I cannot speak for them directly, I must say that we work closely with their field officers and that they would rarely refuse assistance and advice is valued. Your readers should also be aware that some of the major auctions have a veterinary surgeon present or available on a retained basis and they have assisted many inspectors on a number of occasions.

From our experience, many farmers attending auctions and who witness cruelty, because it must be acknowledged that it does occur from time to time, also provide a ready source of information to my inspectors. Yours faithfully, D. C. E. ROBERTS, Chief Inspector of Trading Standards, Shropshire County Council, The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.

Gamble on the arts

From Mr Patrick Howarth

Sir, After reading in your columns (March 4) of the opening of the splendid, but costly, new arts centre in the City of London I strolled out to look at another cultural complex, which is nearing completion here in Cannes. This complex will also provide Cannes with a new casino.

Not for the first time I found myself wondering why in Britain, when we build a new and inevitably uneconomic centre for the arts, we never seem to equip it with facilities for routine and other pastimes from which the management can derive a profit.

Yours faithfully, PATRICK HOWARTH, Villa Lucior, Rue du Dr. Bertrand Lepine, 06400 Cannes, France.

Times out of joint

From Mr Eric Ambrose

Sir, On Dec 14 1971, under the heading "Forever Ambrose" you noted in The Times Diary my rejection slip from the Editor of Building, received after 19 years. Today I have received a rejection card from the Editor of The Times postmarked March 5, 1982.

an developing, slowly, a paranoid suspicion of editors. ERIC AMBROSE, Metch, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, NW7.

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calls himself a "right- the service". Others say he is a neo-conservative. The neo-Republicanism. The description is who said it. A Democratic "managed city" which knows only a few of its citizens. There's a lot of misgiving here. In an era of diminishing expectations, a mayor has correctly calculated that politics really is a weapon than optimism.

eter Watson

Saturday Review

Cuckolded
by a
woman!

Roy Campbell, the poet, was a drunk, whose melancholy brought on illness. And his brush with the Bloomsbury Group was painful. His wife Mary was seduced by Vita Sackville-West (right). She had to compete for Vita's affections with, among more than a dozen other women, Virginia Woolf. It was a sad, tragic affair which left him miserable, alone and broken. His early homosexuality had backfired

By Peter Alexander

Roy Campbell was quite unimpressed by Harold Nicolson's wealth or family connections. But for his wife Mary, an inveterate snob, it was not the least of the attractions of Nicolson's wife, Vita Sackville-West, to know that she was the daughter of Lord Sackville, that her ancestral home was Knole, the huge Elizabethan house two miles from Long Barn, that she was rich and well-travelled, that she surrounded herself with clever and famous people, and that she managed silver, spaniels, and servants with equal facility.

As Campbell's dislike of England and the Nicolson's grew, Mary's love for both increased. The poet felt this growing gulf between them very keenly. The Nicolson's wealth and generosity seemed a reproach to his own poverty. At the dinners they gave he sat silent and downcast among their friends, all his old shyness returning as they talked about people he did not know and countries he had not visited. "I did not notice that he felt any resentment," wrote Harold Nicolson later. "He just felt out of it."

And as Campbell had turned to beer to rid him of his shyness at Oxford, so now his growing discomfort drove him to drink again. With increasing frequency Mary Campbell would return from the village shop to find the children alone in an empty house, doors and windows flung wide, and Campbell gone up to London to get drunk with John or Heselgrave. It was his drinking that made Mary turn to a sympathetic Vita for comfort. Vita was only too willing to provide it. Sympathy rapidly grew into something more powerful.

Mary was an unusually vivacious and beautiful woman; Vita had been an active lesbian since before her marriage to Harold (who was himself a homosexual). In later years Vita came to bear a strong resemblance to a crusty Anglo-Indian colonel, but in 1927 she seemed to Mary an endlessly fascinating being. The two women met at first in the lane below Long Barn; Campbell's frequent absences made such meetings easier.

The affair quickly became passionate. Vita soon attained her object; Mary could not long resist the turbulent demands of a woman to whom she owed so much gratitude, and whom she so much admired. And Vita, having made the conquest easily, treated it as a thing of little consequence.

Meanwhile Campbell was quite unaware of what was happening. He seems to have been pleased that his wife had found a friend. The problem of earning enough money to keep his family still tormented him; even the small rent the Campbells were paying for their cottage seemed an insupportable burden. He wrote so poetry at this time; all his energies went into earning money through articles and reviews, activity which he despised. He was being reduced to the journalism he had so proudly rejected in South Africa. There seemed no way out of the morass.

It was in mid-September 1927 that Vita offered a partial solution. The Nicolson's owned a small, new house set a little further up the slope from Long Barn. Called "the gardener's cottage", it actually housed their two children and a nanny. Vita now suggested that the Campbells should move into this cottage, rent-free, to stay as long as they liked. To her it must have seemed a masterly combination of beneficence and self-interest. Meeting with Mary would now be not only easy, but inevitable. Campbell accepted the offer with little hesitation; they moved into the cottage on October 1, 1927. He was quite unsuspecting.

Mary was by now deeply in love with Vita. Once her feelings had become fully engaged she plunged passionately into the affair, caring less and less about the secrecy. But Vita, having achieved her desire, began to draw back. Mary had become the pursuer, Vita the pursued.

Early in November Mary told her husband what was happening. The move was less daring and less cruel than it sounds. She knew that in his attitude to sexual aberrations he was very tolerant, and in the past neither had kept any secrets from the



other; he had known of her premarital affairs as she had known of his. He listened in silence, then questioned her as to the extent of the affair; she kept very little back. He was stunned by the news.

It may be that Mary had hoped to give some permanence to her relationship with Vita by forcing Campbell to recognize and acknowledge it. If so, she miscalculated. Bewildered and hurt, Campbell took the train up to London, intending perhaps to drink himself into a stupor. There, in a pub, he met the author and scholar C. S. Lewis, a man he knew only slightly from his Oxford days. To him Campbell, unable to contain himself, poured out the whole story.

Lewis, at first surprised, listened in fascinated silence, and then sat back ruminatively. "Fancy being cuckolded by a woman!" he mused. The uncharacteristically tactless remark seared itself into Campbell's mind. He was an intensely proud man; the thought of being the butt of innumerable Bloomsbury jokes was unbearable to him. The carefully

constructed public image of himself as the powerful "Zulu", drinking, fighting, and womanizing, would be turned devastatingly against him.

He flung out of the pub and went back to Weald in a black rage, his sense of betrayal now compounded with jealousy and wounded pride. That night the Campbell children woke crying to an empty house, the curtains flying from open windows, the furniture flung about. Mary, terrified, took refuge with Vita, and (according to Campbell's imaginative account) Dorothy Wellesley, whom Vita had summoned by telephone to Long Barn, set up all night with a shot-gun across her knees. The next day Vita's diary laconically records her belief that Roy was half mad.

But Campbell's rage could not be sustained at such a pitch for long. Mary was surprised by the violence of his outburst, and frightened by it, but she refused to leave Vita. For days Campbell argued, cried, and threatened. He chased Mary with a kitchen-knife. He demanded a divorce. When even this failed to move Mary, he

subsidized. He could hardly thrash Vita, and Harold had returned to his post abroad on October 23. Campbell had no money, no prospects, and now, it seemed, no wife.

But once his anger had cooled he began to realize how much his own behaviour had been responsible for Mary's betrayal. He blamed himself as much as he blamed her. In these circumstances, he vacillated agonizingly; he could not bear to leave her and he could not bear to stay.

According to Harold Nicolson's biographer, James Lees-Milne, Campbell was meanwhile having a brief affair with a bisexual friend of Vita's, Dorothy Warren, who ran the Warren Galleries. Possibly he hoped to arouse Mary's jealousy by such action.

At this point he fell ill: appendicitis was diagnosed, and in February he was taken to hospital for an operation. His illness, and the period of convalescence that followed, gave him an excuse to stay where he was, still hoping that Mary would take pity on him, or that Vita would tire of Mary.

It was during this period, in the bitter winter of 1928, that Laurens van der Post arrived in London from South Africa, and wrote to Campbell. The next day he received a reply:

My dear Laurens,
1. Go to Charing Cross Station at once.
2. Buy a ticket for Sevenoaks (2/5 single or 5/- return).
3. Get in the train for Sevenoaks (the porter will do it all for you if you tell him you're a stranger. He'll show you the right train — give him a sixpence).
4. Get out at Sevenoaks station.
5. When you get out at Sevenoaks you'll see plenty of taxis. Get in one and tell him to drive to Weald Village.
6. When you get to Weald Village ask at the Post Office, the butcher's, the baker's, or any of the shops, and they will tell you where I live. Weald is only a tiny village, everybody knows my house there...

Campbell was pathetically pleased to see Van der Post. Mary took advantage of his stay to disappear for three weeks, Vita being away at the same time. Van der Post was horrified at the squalor in which Campbell was living, scarcely stirring from his bed, and at his emaciation. He wrote later:

"I could hardly believe that the man who had walked the beach in the dark, comforting a hurt little girl in his arms and reciting a great poem with the voice of a prophet, and this thin, shivering hulk of a human being in torn and tattered clothes, could be one and the same person."

Van der Post could hardly believe that Campbell would recover. Though Campbell did not confide in him, he sensed that this dreadful change had something to do with Mary. Campbell was drinking heavily and continuously, mostly gin and cider because of their cheapness, and he spent his days half-dressed in his bed, reading back numbers of the German magazine *Der Querschnitt*. There were very few blankets in the house, and Van der Post found it difficult to sleep because of the cold. Several times he woke to find that Campbell had covered him during the night with his own blanket, and he was astonished that even in this extremity of misery Campbell did not forget his duty to a guest.

It was days before Van der Post was able to persuade Campbell to accompany him to London to meet another South African, the journalist and painter Enslin du Plessis. Although it was a bitterly cold day, Campbell wore neither overcoat nor tie, but clasped a thin jacket over his grey flannel trousers, so torn that the skin of his buttocks was visible; he was unwashed and unshaven. They met Du Plessis in Fleet Street, and went to Grooms', an old coffee-house, for a meal.

Mary's return brought Campbell no relief. He lingered at Long Barn for a time, as hope faded. At last, in April 1928, he gave up. Unable to endure any longer the daily sight of Vita and Mary together, he sadly packed a small bag and took the train to London. He did not return; he had determined to leave England. To go back to South Africa was inconceivable. Instead he crossed the Channel and made his way to Martigues in Provence, where he and Mary had had such a pleasant holiday the previous summer. In that beautiful sunny village, so full of memories of past happiness, he hoped to find consolation. He was on the run again.

But though he recovered quickly and completely, there is ample evidence that his marriage did not. Mary was still deeply in love with Vita, to whom she wrote almost daily; hastily pencilled letters on odd scraps of paper, posted secretly when Campbell was out of the house. Having settled Campbell in the Rue St. Mitre, she returned briefly to England to see Vita for ten days in June, and again in November 1928. Each time Campbell must have wondered whether she would return. By December she was once again despairing of living with him, and talking of separating from him and living alone. It was only gradually that they learned once again to live together as man and wife.

This is an extract from Peter Alexander's *Roy Campbell: A Critical Biography*, which is published on March 18 by the Oxford University Press, price £12.50.

He begged her to return, but she was still in love with Vita



● Campbell arrived in Provence lonely and despairing. His self-confidence shattered. He knew the strength of Vita's hold on Mary; she offered her love, comfort, support, and wealth, and she had the sort of social position which so impressed Mary.

He began writing a stream of desperate, pathetic letters to Mary, begging her to join him. He could not live without her, he wrote; more importantly, he could not write without her; he would give up drinking, he would do anything to make her happy, she would see how he had changed. And to Campbell's delight, the impossible happened. Mary agreed to return to him. The poet saw this as the surest evidence of her continued love for him. In fact, however, there is clear evidence that she was still deeply in love with Vita. Why did she return to her husband?

The answer seems to be that she was urged to do so by Vita, to whom she had become an embarrassment. Vita's fluid affections had begun ebbing quite early in the relationship. Moreover, she was at the same time carrying on no fewer than five other, separate affairs, one of them with Virginia Woolf. Virginia, engaged in writing *Orlando*, was a frequent visitor to Long Barn; she knew about Vita's affair with Mary, and was intensely jealous. She proved a rival Mary could not hope to match.

Vita's increasing coldness, combined with Campbell's humble and desolate letters, persuaded Mary to return to him. Vita was relieved. Mary arrived in Martigues with her two daughters on 12 May 1928, to find Campbell apparently very ill and overjoyed to have her back. They found a cheap little house at 3 Rue St. Mitre in Martigues, and with Mary to look after him Campbell quickly regained his health.

But though he recovered quickly and completely, there is ample evidence that his marriage did not. Mary was still deeply in love with Vita, to whom she wrote almost daily; hastily pencilled letters on odd scraps of paper, posted secretly when Campbell was out of the house. Having settled Campbell in the Rue St. Mitre, she returned briefly to England to see Vita for ten days in June, and again in November 1928. Each time Campbell must have wondered whether she would return. By December she was once again despairing of living with him, and talking of separating from him and living alone. It was only gradually that they learned once again to live together as man and wife.

Following the fox



In the country/Susan Hill

I was working at my desk one Saturday morning in January when I heard the sound of the hunting horn very nearby; it had an extraordinary effect on me, stirring, exciting, so that I jumped up and ran outside, anxious to find out where they were.

When I was a child, and a teenager, I rode a lot and hunted occasionally, though I was never very intrepid, and always followed along fairly far to the back, on a fat, sedate old pony, and went round all the gates and high hedges. But I enjoyed it, the whole colourful, lively event, the meet outside an inn or manor house, the way the very fresh horses were so giddy and restless, the trays of sandwiches and drinks, the admiring crowd, the spurt of fear and pleasure in your stomach as the huntmen moved off and then the chase over fields and getting cold and covered in mud and coming home aching and filthy, to bath and rest.

I was not a bloodthirsty child — indeed, rather the contrary — but nevertheless I took the whole business of hunting calmly, for granted, and never thought about the ethics of it. Man has always hunted, for food or sport or both, some primitive instinct is still aroused by the chase. We do have to control foxes and I doubt if there are any more humane methods, though actually hunting is not particularly efficient. I scarcely remember a kill in my youth, and often we did not even find.

When I got outside into the garden of Moon Cottage, I heard the horn again, braying through the clear air, and then I saw them, streaming down the Buttercup field, the immediately below me, the whole marvellous array of them, men in pink, women in black, and the great strong horses, and the fox yelping bounds and, at the back, the little Thelwell girls with pigtailed bouncing up and down, being steered clear of

a particularly nasty ditch. They went over the fences and on up the Rise and for sixpence I could have gone with them, I wanted to have a horse again and fly and fly...

There is a good story in the village about the time the hunt ended up in the garden of Mrs. Miggs, aged ninety-four. Mrs. Miggs was in one of the oldest, low-lying cottages down Fen Lane, a narrow, thick-walled house with minute windows entirely obscured by indoor geraniums, gangly and overgrown. She has a sort of lightless inner parlour where she sits all day with her canary and her wireless which, because she is deaf, she has turned up very loud. On this particular day, she was happily installed, listening to the Jimmy Young Show, when the fox, followed close by the whole pack of hounds, broke through the hedge into her kitchen garden while the rest of the hunt milled about in the lane

outside steaming and panting and horses pressed their great hind-quarters against the door and windows of the cottage. There was a tremendous racket, and the fox was finished off. It brought out everyone else in the lane but Mrs. Miggs sat on, quite oblivious to all of it, doing

her crochet and listening to the music.

The foxes in Barley have been getting more and more open-faced in their boldness this past winter. One Sunday morning, one went up the track into the stable-yard behind the Grange where Mrs. Lavender keeps her hens

running free and killed six right off, while everyone was singing "Ye Holy Angels Bright" at morning service a few yards away. The following Sunday he went back at precisely the same time for the rest.

Mrs. Lavender hunts twice weekly in winter and who could blame her for feeling bloodthirsty then, yet her heart being also soft at the core, when she saw an injured fox sitting in the middle of the orchard beyond her window her distress was great and she went all over the village to find a man with a gun who would come at once and put the poor creature down.

War by trap was waged after a very tame, very pet Muscovy duck was taken in Ellen's beautifully tended garden near the post box, and she caught seven foxes within a few weeks, but there were plenty more where they came from, in Foxley Spinney and Spoke Woods, and all the little copses around

and about between Barley and the Fen, and the next week, the village school chickens were massacred and left lying all over the run headless, to the agony of the child in charge of locking them away at the time. I can forgive them for taking hens for food, but not for the fun of slaughter, and yet I wonder if it is only a desire to keep down the fox population which makes one respond, as I did, to the sound of the tally-ho!

When it has snowed, we see the fox tracks every morning, they run up our garden from the low wall, and around the hen run and then across the lane into the field opposite. He makes a regular, routine check, so that if we forget once to shut the door of the henhouse, he will pounce. On winter nights, too, we hear the eerie shrieks of the vixen down in the spinney below Sheep Hill, and the barks of the dog foxes fighting over her, they are sounds to chill the blood,

to make you pull the curtains together more tightly and throw another log on the fire.

Yet the fox would never harm a human, and when seen at close quarters he is no more alarming than a dog — I am always taken aback each time by how much smaller and slighter he is in reality than in my mind.

I shall never trust him nor encourage him to come near, but the countryside would be the poorer without him, for in the fox we have a villain and a scapegoat, something to remind us of the essential bloodiness of nature. In this quiet countryside, he is the nearest we get to all those ravaging wolves and brute bears of the wild, and of legend.

© Susan Hill, 1982
These articles are edited extracts from *The Magic Apple Tree* by Susan Hill, to be published by Hamish Hamilton on April 23.

Next week: Mrs Miggs in the springtime

Shoparound with Beryl Downing

What's your ideal?

A trade descriptions inspector would have a field day in London this week. At one end of town is a covered market of mass production masquerading as "ideal". A traffic jam or two away is a display of individually designed furniture calling itself Multiples. In the interests of accuracy they should swap titles.

Ideal, I have been led to believe by the Concise Oxford, means "perfect, supremely excellent; embodying an idea; visionary". Multiples signifies "many and various".

Yet the Ideal Home exhibition, which should be a showcase of commercial enterprise, is about as visionary as a blinkered donkey and Multiples, which actually does "embody an idea", shows creative design that could never be multiplied to production line quantities without losing the

quality that makes it worth having — hand craftsmanship. Anyone who remembers the Ideal Home exhibitions of many years ago will regret its descent to nothing more than a series of advertisements in the round. Once, the houses were furnished by whichever of the designer's favourite manufacturers were willing to lend products. Now they are mostly kitted out by whichever company can afford to pay a substantial sum to the builder — £5,000 for the privilege of showing a range of cupboards in one house was quoted.

The result is that you see whatever the manufacturer wants to sell to a mass audience, rather than the creative talent of an interior designer given full rein. The only success this year is achieved by Sue Rowlands in the Heritage house, whose determined use of strong colour and co-ordinated pattern is fresh and cheerful.

So, if not design trends, what else? A display of "fanciest" installations for domestic baths if you are looking for new ways of relaxing and, upstairs in the health and beauty section, the opportunity to try out a trampolining, have your legs waxed by Carmen or your hair coloured by Eleasa — both free. Make appointments on the stand. The exhibition is at Earls Court until April 3.

I liked the Clothworks stand — lots of boldly patterned cotton at around £12.50 to £25.50 which can be taken to simple slot-together frames (£4 to £5.75) and then padded from the back with kapok to give a three-dimensional look — best in bright primary colours for children's rooms.

And I was glad to see Textclean back at the show. It is one of those "miraculous" carpet and upholstery cleaners that I find actually does work at home as well as in the hands of the demonstrator. You buy a packet of crystals for £1.50 and make up your own solution by dissolving in warm water. Those who can't get to the exhibition can obtain Textclean by post (plus 25p p&p).

from Arlington Food and Arts (Birmingham) Unit 1, 76 Cate Street, N. Birmingham 7. Telephone 05245 2250.

To find the clear, fresh pastels of Spring though, you will do better to visit the Multiples exhibition at the Warwick Arts Trust, 33 Warwick Square, SW1 until March 28. There, the main display is of delightful pistachio green and almond blossom pink upholstery with tables in pale, biscuit coloured sycamore, ash and beech, complemented by superb kinetic screens by artist Adam Craig.

These are 10ft x 8ft hangings of mobile strips of perspex or aluminium, each decorated with simple strips of colour overlaid to create complicated patterns of up to 120 different shades. The prototypes cost just over £1,000 and would be marvellous in public buildings, but can also be reduced to about 4ft square for domestic surroundings.

The other work shown is by 20 craftsmen who have been encour-

aged by the organiser Ann Hartree to think in terms of multiple production. She already shows their furniture, glass, pottery and textiles at her Prescott Gallery, Cropredy, near Banbury, and she is convinced that to work in small batches at about one third of the costs of one-off commissions is the small workshop's survival kit of the future.

"Because there is more than one of a hand-made piece, it doesn't mean the quality is less", she says. "Young craftsmen have to realise that they are not designers immediately they come out of college — even Makepeace spent a lot of time and money establishing his name — and in times of recession they need an alternative source of regular income."

"At the moment many subsidise their workshops by teaching but as 10,000 part-time teaching jobs in the arts will be axed in the next three years, they must develop further than the commissioned one-off."

Child's chair in cleft chestnut by Richard la Trobe Bateman, £175 in the Multiples exhibition at the Warwick Arts Trust, 33 Warwick Square, SW1.

Low armchair by Floris van den Broeke, upholstered in pastel worsted will by Morgan and Oates, £565.80 in the Multiples exhibition.

To the designer, batch production offers several advantages. Practically, he spends less time ordering and collecting raw materials and his best ideas gain a wider audience. "A really good idea deserves to be developed and once you have made a one-off you have a workable prototype", says ex-Parnham student Nick Sherwood, who has a handsome sycamore and elm table in the show.

Aesthetically, you are nobody's lackey. "When you are producing on a small scale you can do what you want without being influenced by stores who say nobody will buy it", says Floris van den Broeke, who is showing furniture upholstered in the delicate pastel worsteds woven by Morgan & Oates.

But marketing will always be a problem for all craftsmen. If their prices are too low they are associated disparagingly with corn doli. If they sell through shops the mark-up, now well over 100%, makes their work prohibitive.

Ann Hartree is doing her best

Screen-printed down in cheerful primary colours is available stitched and padded at £12.50 with a slot-together frame, £4, or ready framed at £18 or as plain fabric to pad at home, £10. Several designs available from Clothworks. The Market, Covent Garden, London WC2 and 5, Goswell Street, Bath. Also at the Ideal Home exhibition.



To find the right audience for them by showing their work at her gallery open Wednesdays to Sundays 10 am to 5 pm (the first exhibition will be from April 11 to May 2) and there's a licensed buttery so it's a tempting day out. She will also show to the furniture trade at Earls Court May 16-17, and at the Fine Art Society, Great King Street, Edinburgh, June 26 to August 10.

"Such a lot of craft is too elitist. I want to aim at the people who were switched on by Habitat ten years ago. Where are they now and what are they buying?" I rather suspect they are buying Italian. Habitat was to furniture what the modern model girl is to fashion — smart, not always pretty, but with a fashionable look that nevertheless seemed accessible.

That is what the Italians are producing today, at somewhat higher prices. If only English craftsmen could find an equally effective corporate identity. English furniture buyers might have more confidence in going native.

Truffles ahead

If music were the food of love we'd all be a good deal thinner. I speak bitterly as one in the throes of a non-consuming passion — yet another diet — and I will not easily forget the rarely recorded sound of contented subscribers as they munched through the fresh cream truffles my conscience obliged me to cast before them.

The chocolates had been sent round by Barkers of Kensington a golden carton of dark delights made by a young man in Tunbridge Wells called Howard, who learnt to be a confectioner in Switzerland and now delivers each week to Barkers and Army & Navy, Victoria.

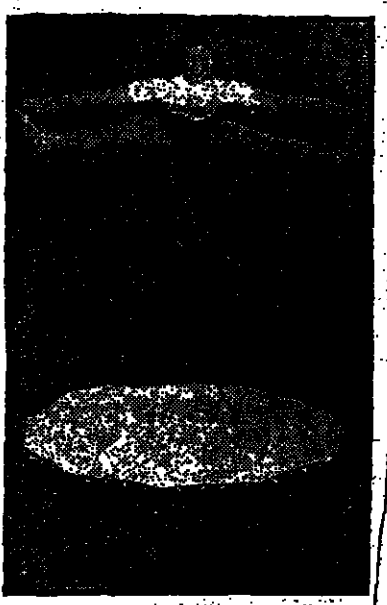
There are eight flavours of Howard's hand-made cream truffles: milk, vanilla, caramel and coffee, rum, Grand Marnier, whisky and cognac. Presentation boxes are £4.95 lb, £8.50 2lb, cartons of 100x £2.95, or pick your own selection at 95p 4lb.

They are sold from refrigerated cases in the stores and will keep for four weeks once you get them home.

Talking about food, a touring exhibition called The Upstairs Downstairs of a Dinner Party offers an instructive and entertaining hour and a half packed with information on choosing wines, arranging the flowers and planning the menu.

It is sponsored by 24 manufacturers of foods, drinks and kitchen appliances and the recipes demonstrated will be asparagus mousse, seafood delicatessen, steak and siltan and a meringue gateau.

There will be morning, afternoon and evening shows in Esher on March 24 and 25; Bath March 30, 31 and April 1; Chester April 14 and 15; Coventry April 21 and 22; Beaconsfield April 28 and 29. Tickets are £1.50 each, or £1.25 for groups of ten or more. Some sessions are already sold out, but several are still available — enquiries to Mrs Carol Macartney, Dinner Party Secretariat, 25 Park Road, London NW1 6XN. Telephone 01-723 0725.



This new Swedish home-trampoline for keep-fit enthusiasts is demonstrated at the Ideal Home. In two sizes, 40in diameter £49.50 and 60in £79.50, from Roncaste Ltd, 42 Earls Court, WC2.

A helping touch for the blind

A fighting forward containing the insularity of some charities for the blind introduces the 1982 edition of *In Touch*, the BBC's handbook of aids and services for the blind and partially sighted.

St. Dunstan's, whose 28m assets make it the richest of these charities, comes under attack for being "surprisingly reluctant to contribute to projects which help the blind in general", although last year there remained only 998 war-blinded men and women living in Britain.

People imagine that the blind are particularly well served in this country but in fact, because of the lack of specialist social workers, very little more information is automatically available to a newly blind person today than when we produced our first edition nine years ago," co-author Margaret Ford told me.

"St. Dunstan's have helped in the past with the welfare of blind people generally — they contributed, for instance, to the Talking Book Service, but this unfortunately has less than 4,000 titles to serve 54,000 blind people. It is now technically possible to record full-length novels on only two C90 cassettes for use on a new type of recording machine, but this would cost millions. The money is there — £56 million between the four major charities — if only they would make it available for the benefit of all blind people."

Many of the difficulties faced by people who are newly regis-

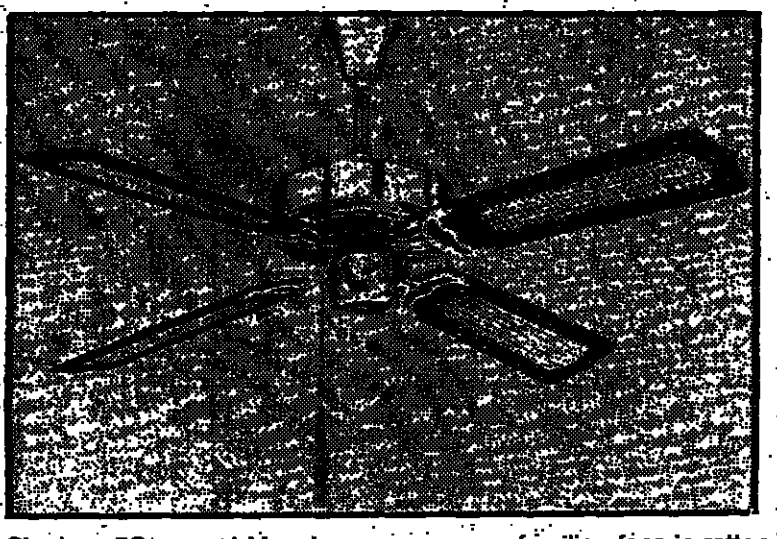
tered as blind, however, involve understanding and practical help rather than vast sums of money, and solutions to everyday problems are exactly what Margaret Ford and Thelma Heshel offer in their handbook.

It includes advice on allowances and employment, kitchen layout, safety, choppers and slicers, leisure pursuits, travel and education. It also suggests ways of detecting visual handicap in small children and gives guidance on looking after the largest group of sufferers, the elderly.

Many old people — and the number of those over 85 is expected to increase from 464,000 in 1980 to 692,000 in 1995 — do not become registered as blind and are not aware of the services available — for instance that all those registered are eligible for a radio set on free permanent loan from the British Wireless for the Blind Fund.

The book is available from BBC Publications, PO Box 234, London SE1 2PT for £2.95 including postage. Its thoroughness will be appreciated by the newly blind who are bewildered by such apparently simple acts as making a cup of tea and its practical, down-to-earth attitudes will be invaluable to those who want to help but don't know how.

It is hoped that the authors, "that sighted readers will receive the message that the real need of the blind is not a sheltered seat in a stented garden but the opportunity to take their place in the busy busy of everyday life."



Shades of Somerset Maugham — a range of ceiling fans in rattan and wood launched in London this week by Christopher Wray.

They circulate a gentle breeze in summer and some have a reverse switch to push down warm air in winter. The Old Style, above, has a polished brass finish, £175, the Casablanca comes in polished brass, antique brass or chrome from £125. Both can be fitted with a selection of light pendants. From Christopher Wray branches at 600 Kings Road, SW6 and in Bristol and Leeds.

Right: Do not Pooh-pooh this less-than-lovely piece of plastic. It commemorates this year's centenary of A. A. Milne's birth and it may one day end up in a museum of memorabilia. It costs £85 (£5 p&p) from the Telephone Box, 339 Fulham Road, SW10. Mickey Mouse and Snoopy are also available — just be thankful no one has yet thought of similarly beatifying Buzby.

Life in at least one Scottish public school is, I am happy to learn, less hairy than it used to be. They have replaced their old-fashioned iron bedsteads with modern units — and now they don't know what to do with the old horsehair mattresses.

Mr K. J. Houston, housemaster of Rogerson East House, Merchiston Castle School, Colinton, Edinburgh, saw my recent comments about amateur upholsterers throwing away "valuable horsehair".

At the moment a local d-i-y enthusiast asks for one mattress every year or so, but that rate of progress does not suit Mr Houston, whose school motto is Ready as Ready. "Would anyone who is planning to corner the market in sofa stuffing like to make him an offer?"

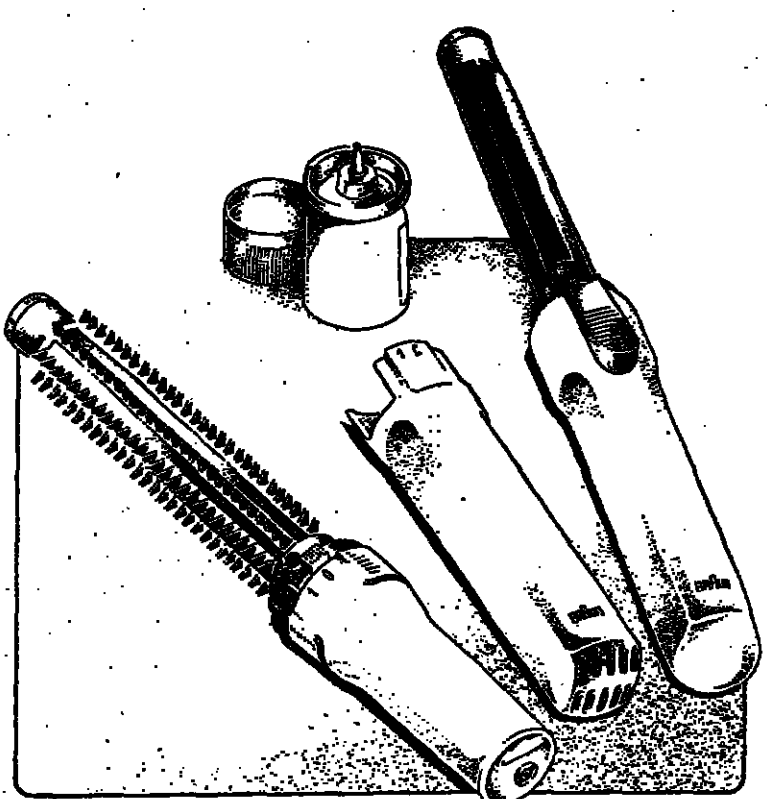
Less hairy today

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The latest hair styling tongs can be taken anywhere in the world without the bother of remembering a suitable adaptor plug. They work on butane gas, which comes in refill cylinders at 99p each — about two months' supply. Simply fill the tank in the handle, switch on and the tongs heat within seconds, reaching optimum temperature in five minutes. Called the Braun Independent, the tongs cost £10.95, the styling wand £11.95, each with a mini refill to last one month. Both from major branches of Boots and at Harrods.

PERCY THROWER'S HOLIDAYS 1982 ESCORTED DEPARTURES

25 MAY 9-Day Rhine Cruise and Amsterdam Including 7 night Rhine cruise plus one night in Amsterdam to visit the world famous "Flower Show".

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1982 Garden Buildings Catalogue

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1982 Garden Buildings Catalogue

The bitter winter, coming after a year with above average rainfall, has been hard on our lawns. The last few weeks have been fairly mild and it may be we shall have what all gardeners would wish to be without — an early spring. We prefer a late spring which as the old saying goes "never deceives" — that is it does not turn back on itself and damage precocious young growth. If that happens it will be just too bad on top of all the massive damage to plants in December and January.

But the grass is growing now and we should be scarifying the lawn, if we want healthy turf, to rake out dead grass and other rubbish. Small lawns may be vigorously raked by hand with a wire rake, if you have the time and the muscle or somebody to do it for you; or a small electric scarifier will do quite a useful job.

For larger areas it would be worthwhile seeking out a garden machinery hire firm, if you can find one, that will rent out a larger motorized scarifier for a day or a weekend. Maybe two or three friends or neighbours could share the hire cost because one can cover a large area with a power scarifier in a day. And scarifying does do the lawn a power of good, as does slitting or piercing the turf with a lawn aerator.

Lawns as with the rest of the garden have had lime and nitrogen leached out over the past 12 months by above average rainfall. Lawns on acid soils suffer invasion by moss very readily, especially lawns that tend to lie wet, although out of the 40 or more native mosses there are species which grow happily on the acid soils that are not acid. On acid lawns it would pay to whiten the turf with a light

Gardening/Roy Hay Rake's progress

dressing of lime now and repeat the dose once or twice at 10-day intervals.

All lawns will respond well this year to feeding with high nitrogen lawn fertilizer, or "turf conditioner" as some firms prefer to call their product. I like to apply the first dose about now and a second application in about four weeks. Scattering a fertilizer on a lawn by hand, be it a powder or in granular form, can be a bit hit and miss. It probably does not matter very much if we put on a slight overdose here and there, especially if we water the fertilizer into the turf. This I would always do unless the weather is

showery and the rain will wash it off the grass.

If you have a fairly large area of lawn to treat with fertilizer it would be worth while investing in a fertilizer spreader. These machines are also useful for spreading fertilizer on the vegetable garden and are capable of being adjusted to apply the various fertilizers quite accurately for a given rate of application.

David Hessayon, who has produced several excellent gardening books, has now published *The Lawn Expert* which he modestly claims is an enlarged edition of the world's best selling book on lawn care. It costs £1.95 and is surprisingly good value. Lavishly illustrated in colour throughout, it covers every aspect of lawn making and subsequent lawn care and maintenance.

There have been many different moss killers including those with a mercurous content but this, according to EEC regulations, must not now be sold as a cure for moss — I have not been able to find out why, because mercurous compounds may still be advised for the control of various turf diseases and the rate of application is far higher than that we used on lawns. So we are glad to welcome Murphy's Tumblemoos which kills the moss in 12 hours and prevents its reappearance for up to 12 months. The moss

killer is chloroxuron, but Tumblemoos also contains ferric sulphate and urea which help to green up the grass and encourage its growth.

It is recommended that a general lawn fertilizer be applied two weeks after the treatment with Tumblemoos. The makers say that it is harmless to children and pets.

Recently I mentioned that one can only buy mustard, but not cress at the green-grocers' and I wondered why. Had I stopped to think as several readers have kindly pointed out the reason is obvious. Cress takes three days longer to grow than mustard. Mustard (which is not really mustard but rape) which you buy in the shop is ready for sale in about five to seven days. So cress costs the grower about half as much again in the cost of heating the glasshouse. When the wholesaler's and retailer's profit is added, obviously cress is going to cost so much more than mustard that it is certain we will never see it again in the shops when it has to be grown in heat.

I have checked the comparative cost of growing mustard on a piece of flannel in a saucer on the kitchen bench against a punnet bought from the green-grocer. The punnet cost 10p and contained about 600 seedlings. A packet of seed I bought cost 23p and contained around 1,400 seeds. So if you grow mustard yourself it costs just about as much as the fresh article in the shop. Obviously, because I cannot

buy fresh cress, I cannot say how much cheaper it would be to grow our own. All I can say is that, to me, a mustard sandwich is not the same as an egg, mustard and cress sandwich, so henceforth we will grow our own mustard and cress. This is over a crop at least, I have never known to give any trouble.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Dull end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, March 26. Contango Day, March 29. Settlement Day, April 5.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1981/82 High Low Company Price Chg Pence % P/E

BRITISH FUNDS

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

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BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

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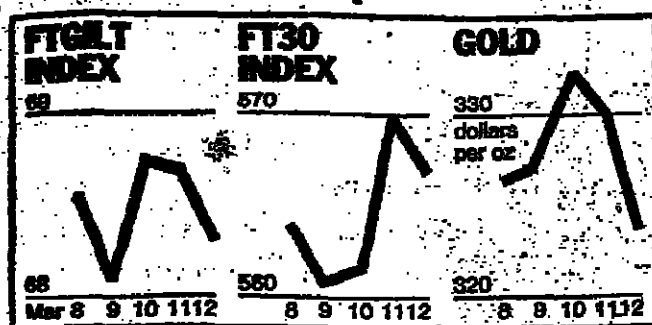
MONEY MARKET RATES

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Gold losses
Accountants
EC industrial production falls
MARKET
Will end to
LONDON EXCHANGE
OTHER EXCHANGE
COMMODITIES

BUSINESS NEWS

Gold loses \$7



Gold slumped a further \$7 an ounce on the bullion markets, to end the day at \$323.75. This brings the fall on the week to \$19.50. Sterling also declined yesterday, slipping 1.15 cents, to \$1.795. Over the week, the pound has lost almost 4 cents against the dollar. The FT share index managed a small overall gain of 6.2 points during the last five trading days, but was 1 point down yesterday, at 566.9. Gilts fell back a ¼ to 4½ point.

Accountants pay £450,000

A record out-of-court £450,000 cash settlement has been paid to the Stock Exchange by Luton-based chartered accountants Keens, Sharkey Keens over their role as auditors to City stockbrokers Chapman and Rowe who were hammered in 1974. No liability has been admitted by the accounting firm, none of whose existing partners were engaged on the Chapman and Rowe audit. The Stock Exchange, which charged Keens with failing to carry out a proper audit, paid £325,000 compensation to investors, after the crash.

STC turns in £50m

Standard Telephones and Cables, the communications group 85 per cent owned by the United States ITT corporation, raised profits to £50.6m against £44.1m for the year to December. Sales were up from £537.7m to £567.5m, and earnings per share were up to 36.46p from 28.65p. A final dividend of 12.85p gross makes a total of 19.28p gross against 14.28p gross last year. The shares rose to 529p, then closed the day at 520p after opening at 490p.

Full report, page 18.

EEC industrial production falls

Industrial production in the European Community fell by 2.5 per cent in 1981 compared with 1980 and 1.65 per cent in December, according to provisional figures. The drop in industrial production contrasted with steady monthly increases in the three previous months. The decline was mainly due to drops in Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Films on cable

Greenwich Cablevision, the south London cable television company and one of the seven in the country awarded an experimental licence by the Home Office, last night launched a new channel devoted entirely to feature films.

Grain forecast

The Soviet Union will probably continue to import 35 to 45 million tonnes of grain a year in order to maintain its standard of living, Mr Robert Horvath, Assistant Secretary of State, said in Washington yesterday. The United States Agriculture Department yesterday estimated that the USSR will import a record 43 million tonnes in the 1981/82 crop year, up from 34.8 million in the previous crop year.

Jobless drop

The rate of increase in unemployment in France is slowing down. At the end of February, 2,093,800 people were out of work, a drop of 30,000 from the end of January.

MARKET SUMMARY

Dull end to Budget account

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 566.9 down 1.0
FT Gilts 68.30 down 0.41
FT All Shares 323.35 down 0.75
Bargains 25,705

Takeover news provided interest as the Budget account came to a generally dull end, with the FT index down 1.0 at 566.9, but a rise on the account of 19.5.

Huntley & Palmer put on 8p to 112p in foods as talks with Abisco continued. Rowntree the original bidder, put on 4p to 170p while Cadbury, which is working with interest, shed 4p to 97p.

In properties, Federated Land jumped 14p to 146p in after hours dealing on news of the bid from M.P. Kent, 1p off at 86p. Estates & General shed 7p to 63p following Kent's objections to Federated's bid.

There were a few sellers in gilts, where long ended 2½ off, medium was 2½ easier and short dates lost 2½. But enthusiasm continued for the index-linked issues where gains ranged up to 24.

Among leading equities GKN stood out with a 7p gain to 169p ahead of figures next week. Tube Investments were unchanged at 225p after the previous day's 245p as revised bid rumours came to nothing.

Profit taking in the brewing sector failed to dent prices with Bass unchanged at 225p and Grand Metropolitan 2p better at 211p. BP Bufer reached another new high, putting on 3p to 353p, as the market anticipates record profits in two weeks.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,102.61 down 154.73
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,196.90 up 17.12

COMMODITIES

● A Saudi Arabian financial institution has made a loan offer to the International Cocoa organization buffer stock of \$70m on favourable terms. Mr Juergen Plambeck, ICCO buffer stock manager confirmed.

Mr Plambeck said the \$70m offer will be submitted to the ICCO council in London next week for consideration.

At the same meeting a loan offer from Brazilian banks totaling \$75m on conditions which have been considerably improved will also be submitted.

Cocoa futures in London steadied slightly on closing. Call following confirmation that the ICCO buffer stock has received an offer of a \$70m loan from a Saudi institution.

Turnover totalled a quiet 1,801 including 245 cross trades with nearby prices six pence lower to one bid and the rest about unchanged.

CURRENCIES

● The pound fell against a stronger dollar which was buoyed by rising Eurodollar interest rates ahead of a predicted big rise in the United States money supply figures to be published late Friday.

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.7995 down 1.15 cents
Index 90.1 down 3 points
DM 4.28
Fr.Fr. 10.9750
Yen 431.50
Dollar
Index 113.7 up 4 points
DM 2.3780 up 10 points
Gold
\$ 323.75 down \$7

MONEY MARKETS

● Period rates firmed a shade. The Bank bought £483m of bills at unchanged rates to help relieve a shortage finally put at about £500m.
Domestic Rates:
Base rates 13
3-month interbank 13½-13¾
Euro-Currency Rates
3-month dollar 14½-15
3-month DM 9½-9¾
3-month Fr.Fr. 16½-16¾

New drop in rates ruled out as pound weakens

By Frances Williams

The financial markets do not now expect a fresh drop in interest rates for a while, even though the ½ point fall to 13 per cent in bank base rates this week was less than some had hoped for. Yesterday saw sterling fall below \$1.80 for the first time since last autumn. No Bank of England intervention was detected and analysts do not expect any further move by the Bank to reduce interest rates down further while sterling remains vulnerable.

It closed last night in London at \$1.7995, down 1.15 cents from Thursday, and nearly 4 cents lower on the week. Sterling's weakness was partly caused by a firmer dollar, which was boosted by higher Eurodollar deposit rates ahead of yesterday's United States money supply figures. These were expected to show a huge increase, perhaps of \$24.3 billion.

Concern is growing that American interest rates may soon be on their way up again as the Fed tries to keep the money supply within its tight target ranges in the face of high seasonal credit demand next month and some tentative signs that the recession there may be bottoming out.

If United States interest rates rise the British authorities will have less room to cut. The pound is further without taking a fall in sterling, and thus threatening the steady decline they hope to see in inflation.

The financial markets are thus waiting to see whether sterling will settle down after today's fall and what is likely to happen to United States interest rates, before they judge what scope there is for United Kingdom rates to come down.

The Bank of England yesterday issued this note of caution in the money markets today. It supplied £483m of bills to the money market at dealing rates unchanged from yesterday. At the weekly Treasury Bill tender the average rate at which the three-month bills were allotted fell only fractionally from £12.4972 per cent last week to £12.4650 per cent yesterday.

Gilts too suffered from some pessimism on interest rates falling back after the sharp gains immediately following the Budget. Short-dated stock closed up to ¼ down on the day, with long-dated gilts about ¼ down. However, both finished the day higher than before the Budget.

Index-linked stocks, initially given a sharp boost by the Budget news that they are to be available to the public, fell back by up to ½ on the day after rising by ½ on Wednesday. But the 2006 stock, for example, ended the week about £13 up from before the Budget.

Meanwhile, the Northern Ireland Secretary, James Prior, is still non-committal on the creditors' request that the government should renounce its preferential status and reduce its rights in its claims against De Lorean to the same status as those of the many small unsecured creditors who have supplied goods and services.

Mr Shewell said yesterday the receivers expect the result of talks between the American De Lorean company and the Budget Receivers to be a success.

A sale to Budget is unlikely directly to ease the Belfast company's cash problems since the Bank of America is claiming control of almost 2,000 cars in view of its £33m (£18.2m) loans to the American company.

But they are not optimistic.

Mr Shewell told them on Thursday that the receivers were cautiously hopeful that a rescue would be achieved. If the company was liquidated unsecured creditors would get nothing. If things went well they should get not less than 30p in the pound. "This figure, in itself, was a disappointment," Mr Stevens said.

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Talks at the top: Mr Cumming, the societies' chairman, with his deputy, Mr Herbert Walden.

Banks join in cutting cost of a mortgage

The biggest-ever cut in the mortgage rate of 1.5 per cent points, bringing their cost down from record 15 per cent—was announced yesterday by Alan Cumming, chairman of the Building Societies Association. (Lorna Bourke writes)

The High Street banks had

been waiting to where the societies would fix their rates and the National Westminster and Barclays immediately announced their own reductions.

NatWest cut its rate by 1 per cent to 13.5 per cent while Barclays quoted 13.75 per cent although, because of

a discrepancy in the way the banks calculate interest, repayments on a Barclays loan are lower than NatWest's. Midland and Lloyds have yet to decide where their new rate will settle. The cheapest loans for sums up to £20,000 are offered by the Trustee Savings Bank, which is

quoting 12.5 per cent. The building societies' new investment rate is 8.75 per cent, down from 9.75 per cent. It should give them room to improve their position and lending has just begun to pick up to last summer's level of £1,000m a month. Spring boost, page 16

Japan starts to go into a decline

Japan yesterday announced the first quarterly decline in its economy in nearly seven years and another drop in exports highlighted the need to stimulate the sagging domestic economy.

The gloomy prospects for many firms in Japan and a fall in the yen also triggered the sharpest drop in share prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange this year.

The economic planning agency, which monitors Japan's economic performance, said that gross national product fell by 0.9 per cent in the final quarter of 1981. It was the first decline since the January to March quarter of 1975, when it fell by 0.7 per cent.

The announcement meant the Japanese economy would not reach the earlier predicted healthy growth rate of 4.1 per cent for this financial year, ending on March 31. The lower yen during the period did little to help exports, the backbone of the economy in recent years.

Officials said domestic demand had been rising, although more slowly than hoped, but it had been more than offset by a 4.3 per cent drop in exports in the October to December quarter of last year. Imports over the period rose by nearly three per cent.

Exports have declined in recent months because of the recession hitting many of Japan's major markets in the west. February figures on trade passing through customs also issued today showed that exports continued to fall.

But imports also fell, and this helped turn a January trade deficit of close to \$2,000 million into a surplus last month of more than 100 million.

A Japanese newspaper survey portrayed a gloomy picture of Japan's export-oriented companies. Company profits are expected to fall four per cent.

The survey by the financial daily *Nihon Keizai Shinbun* covered more than 800 firms.

Japan is to announce a voluntary curbing of its car exports to the United States for the financial year starting next month. Officials of the International Trade and Industry Ministry said the ceiling would be fixed after considering views given yesterday by Mr James Murphy, deputy assistant United States trade representative.

Car sales in the United States in 1984 were only 8.53 million, with imports a record 27.2 per cent of the total—Reuters.

Nabisco may take the biscuit at Huntley

By Our Financial Staff

A second suitor for Huntley & Palmer, the biscuit group, subject of a £72.5m bid from Rowntree Mackintosh, has emerged after six weeks of speculation.

Huntley revealed yesterday it is holding talks with Nabisco Brands Inc, the United States biscuit company, whose brand names include Ritz, Crackers and Shredded Wheat.

Mr Hugh Brown, Huntley's finance director, said talks may or may not lead to an offer and was unable to comment further. But it appears that Huntley is fighting the takeover from Rowntree, which approached Nabisco only in the last day or so to see if they would turn long-expressed interest into a firm proposal.

Nabisco, which has ac-

quired a 2.6 per cent stake in Huntley, was also not commenting on the situation. However, Mr Michael Masterpool, a director, said Nabisco had been planning for some time a listing on the London Stock Exchange.

Rowntree, which is offering one share plus 150p cash for every three, Huntley shares jumped 8p to 112p on the news, said: "We wait to see the outcome of their discussions."

The spokesman said: "The statement issued by Huntley is only a holding statement and we are making no further comment on it."

Meanwhile Cadbury-Schweppes is adding nothing to the hunt made on Thursday by Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman, that the group may top the bid by Rowntree.

M. P. Kent bids to stop merger by developers

By Philip Robbison

Bristol-based property developer M. P. Kent yesterday launched a surprise takeover bid for Dorking property group Federated.

Kent already owns 14.72 per cent of Federated, which it bought at 130p a share in a dawn raid last September.

Federated's borrowings are about £14m. Debt of Estates and General is put at £10m. Kent says it is a liquid company and that a successful bid would almost wipe clean Federated's balance sheet.

Federated's all-share bid for Estates and General now values the company at 81p a share against the 74p price touched after the bid was announced last Monday.

Stone-Platt shares tumble

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Shares in Stone-Platt, the textile machinery and engineering group, tumbled 3½p to 12½p yesterday after reports that the group is once again having talks with its bankers and may need further finance on top of the support given last year by banks and City institutions.

Stone-Platt has been struggling to sort out its problems since it ran into default on its loans in 1980 and the Bank of England had to coordinate rescue talks.

Last year a £10m capital injection and £40m loan package was put together by the group. There have also been management changes

including the resignation last October of Mr Robin Teverton as chief executive.

Mr Leslie Pincott, chairman, was unavailable for comment yesterday as were the group's merchant bankers, Hill Samuel. The group's main bankers, Midland and Equity Capital for Industry and Finance for Industry, who both participated in last year's restructuring, would not comment.

Stone-Platt lost £3.5m pre-tax in the first half of last year, dashing earlier hopes of break-even for 1981. Full year results are expected soon.

Habitat's style goes East

By Margareta Pagano

Mr Terence Conran, after snapping up the Mothercare chain is going east. His latest venture is Habitat Japan.

This is a joint operation with Seibu and Seiyu, one of Japan's largest retail and transport corporations, whose interests include a private rail company, fashion houses and golf courses.

Details of the deal, which has taken two years to negotiate, were announced yesterday. "They work very fast," said Mr Conran. "I was not expecting a statement yet."

Habitat Design Holdings is linking with Seibu Department Stores. Its parent is not listed although it holds a 20 per cent stake in the quoted Seiyu Stores.

Habitat Japan will be capitalised at 1,000 yen (£22m) and Habitat has the option to take 10 per cent of the equity. Seibu, Seiyu Stores and Seibu Credit, all part of the privately-run holding company, will own the balance.

Seibu, which is on a par with British Home Stores, will develop and manufacture new goods for marketing through Habitat's stores. The joint firm plans to open 10 stores over the next five years - two in Tokyo this year. Sales are to total 20,000 million yen (£441m) by 1985.

Habitat was first courted two years ago by Seibu, run by Mr T. Tsutsumi, known in Japan as a bold and enterprising operator. A string of other Japanese also tried to do a deal.

"But Seibu attracted us because they seemed clear that European furniture and design could be introduced into the young Japanese market. I see a great future for Habitat there," Mr Conran said.

It also makes sense since many of Habitat's furniture imports come from the Far East and can now sell directly through the chain being developed. Habitat continues to push outlets elsewhere and has 16 outlets in France and Belgium and six in the United States.

Oil safety move

Texaco, the United States-based oil company, has applied for planning permission to build a £10m catalytic reformer at its refinery at Pembroke, South Wales, to enable it to comply with any change in the law on lead content in petrol.

Third Force emerges in the United Kingdom car market

Vauxhall on full throttle back to black

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Vauxhall, the British subsidiary of General Motors, is on course this year to trade profitably for the first time since 1978.

The company yesterday disclosed a net loss last year of £57.4m, against a loss of £83.3m the previous year. All of last year's losses came in the first half, when the deficit was almost £60m. It is clear that Vauxhall has been making profits for the last six months.

The better financial performance happened despite a fall in the value of sales from £766.8m in 1980 to £761.7m.

Mr John Fleming, Vauxhall's new American chairman and managing director, said there was no doubt the company was "on the road back" and the results were expected to improve significantly.

The company, which assembles all but one of its cars



Vauxhall's Luton production line: making profits

mainly from imported components, said that improved prospects indicated an operating but not a net profit for this year.

Vauxhall is emerging as a

third force in the British car market after years of stagnation and recently has captured growing numbers of sales from competitors, particularly BL and Talbot.

THE PENTLAND INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

Results for the year to 31st December, 1981.

| | 1981 | 1980 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|
| Total revenue | £1.96m | £1.96m |
| Earnings per share | 6.28p | 6.43p |
| Dividends per share | 6.35p | 6.30p |
| Net asset value per share | 212p | 194p |
| Total net assets | £38.6m | £35.5m |

- Overseas content increased to 45.1%
- Larger percentage invested in lower yielding growth companies
- Fully invested in balanced spread of investments by industry and country
- 10 year performance: gross dividend up 179% net asset value up 67%

To: East of Scotland Investment Managers Ltd., 3 Albany Place, Edinburgh EH2 4NQ.
Please send me a copy of the Annual Report.

Name _____

Address _____

FAMILY MONEY

Spring boost for homebuyers

Homebuyers will benefit substantially from the record 1.5 per cent cut in the mortgage rate announced yesterday by the building societies. Home loans come down from a high of 15 per cent to 13.5 per cent with immediate effect for new borrowers and from April 1 for those already buying their home.

The cost of a £20,000 25-year loan comes down from £258 a month to £235 before tax relief—a net cost of £167.50 for a new borrower.

The banks wasted no time in matching the building societies' mortgage rates. National Westminster immediately cut its rate by 1 per cent to 13.5 per cent. NatWest customers start paying the new rate on March 16. Barclays was next to move reducing its rate to 13.75 per cent but the actual monthly repayments are lower than those quoted by NatWest.

Cheapest place to borrow for loans under £20,000 is the TSB which brought its mortgage rate down to 12.5 per cent for loans under £20,000, 13.5 per cent above, TSB also throws in free life assurance.

Midland and Lloyds have not moved but an announcement is expected early next week as they will not be able to afford to stay out of line. The cut in home loan rates is not however expected to produce a sudden upsurge in house prices. "We would expect to see house prices rising a little towards the end of this year," said Alan Cumming, chairman of the Building Societies Association, but he pointed out that house prices are linked to

incomes and families' real incomes are expected to fall this year "so we won't see a sharp increase in house prices".

And the good news for homebuyers was matched by a generous offer for savers. The societies have cut the recommended investment rate by only 1 per cent from 9.75 per cent to 8.75 per cent, equivalent to 12.5 per cent before tax to a basic rate taxpayer.

With a 1.5 per cent reduction in the mortgage rate cut, a cut of more than 1 per cent was on the cards.

Most building society investors are receiving 1 per cent more than the recommended rates on "extra interest" accounts. At 9.75 per cent, net of basic rate tax, even basic rate taxpayers can expect a real return—taking into account inflation—on their investment. The Chancellor has said he expects inflation to run about 9 per cent during the coming 12 months so investors are 0.75 per cent in pocket.

The banks, by comparison look pretty miserable. Even the non-taxpayer who will receive the full 10.25 per cent

(10.0 at the Midland) can do much better by moving into a National Savings Bank Investment Account which pays 13.5 per cent from April 1, or into one of the money funds run by Simco or Tyndall paying slightly more.

"We think we should certainly be able to keep our rates at around their current level for the next week or two," commented Brian Pepperall of Tyndall, "and even when a reduction comes it should only be about 0.5 per cent".

Post Offices were jammed on Wednesday as investors took advantage of the last opportunity to buy 23rd issue National Savings certificates—withdrawn by the Chancellor in his Budget speech.

But most excitement has been over the new issue of index-linked gilt edged securities. These link an attractive bet for all taxpayers provided they are allocated at their face value of £100 for every £100 nominal of stock—cheaper. At anything above this level, granny bonds look a better bet.

The new index-linked gilts are particularly attractive to higher rate taxpayers, and like other gilts they are free of capital gains tax if held for more than a year.

The application forms which appeared in newspapers in Thursday look a little daunting, but it is worth ploughing through the small print—or handing it all over to your bank manager or stockbroker to deal with. On page 17 Sally White explains how to cope if you intend to "go it alone".



Go for gilts — they are as good as granny bonds

For investors the most innovative change in the Chancellor's Budget was the opening up of index-linked gilts to individuals. An issue has been announced with application forms already published in daily newspapers and investors should not be put off by the forms' complicated appearance.

If you "tender" for the new index-linked gilts at the nominal price of £100 for £100 of stock, they are as attractive as granny bonds. At anything cheaper—£99 or £98 per £100—they are a bargain and provided you can afford to have your money locked up for a possible six years, they are an attractive proposition for taxpayers.

Unlike granny bonds which can be sold back to the Government after 12 months for the full index-linked value, investors in the new index-linked gilt must sell their stock in the market if they want to cash in before the redemption date. The unknown quantity is how the gilt market will react in pricing these stocks so investors should be prepared to hold them the full six years.

For this reason, investors requiring income should be wary of purchasing. Both capital and income from these gilts is index-linked, but the initial return is low—only 2 per cent. Like conventional gilts they are free of capital gains tax if held for more than a year.

Tendering for the stock—application forms have to be at the Bank of England's new issue department by 10am on Friday—is not difficult once you know how. Stockbrokers Laurie Millbank have worked out for us a range of prices to "tender" depending on how great a premium over the rate of inflation you think is reasonable. The Chancellor believes inflation



The right to buy this indexed stock was restricted to pension funds. I have now decided to remove this restriction and the Bank of England is announcing a new issue of indexed stock on an unrestricted basis. — the Chancellor Sir Geoffrey Howe.

will run at 9 per cent over the coming year.

Remember you will probably not be able to buy at the price you have tendered. The Bank has the right to start at the highest tender and work its way down the list of tender prices until the allocation is full. Then the Bank will declare the "striking price" which will be lowest level at which the allocation

| Return Required over Inflation | Tender Price to Offer |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.5% | £102.75 |
| 2.0% | £100 |
| 2.5% | £97.25 |
| 3.0% | £94.25 |

Sally White

MONEY TALK

Improved terms for investors

For building society investors the choice of extra-interest accounts is truly mind-boggling.

Most accounts pay 1 per cent over the building societies' recommended rate, but there are varying terms for withdrawal. Societies have recently been improving the terms of these accounts—generally reducing the notice period and easing the withdrawal penalties.

Provincial Bradford & Bingley and Halifax building societies now only require one month's notice in writing for no penalty to be incurred. The norm up until now was three months. They are also reducing the penalty for immediate withdrawals.

The Provincial and the Bradford & Bingley deduct 28 days interest while others deduct a month's interest.

Interest reform falls due

The payment of interest on National Savings Bank Investment Accounts comes perilously near to being a fraud.

Interest is paid on whole pounds deposited for whole calendar months so it is possible, if you pay in money at the beginning of one month and withdraw it at the end of the following month, to obtain interest on money deposited for nearly two months.

Reforming this system is on National Savings' list of "things to do" but due to civil service inertia is currently languishing at all the bottom of the computer amendments. There is, apparently, no reason why it is not given top priority.

Golden bonus for executives

Companies wanting to slim down their workforce can expect a rush of senior executives volunteering for redundancy. After April 6 the new provisions for taxing golden handshakes comes into force and the existing concessions for payments in excess of £25,000 disappear.

At present the first £25,000 is tax free and any excess is taxed at half your marginal rate of tax. The maximum tax payable on the excess over £25,000 is therefore 30 per cent.

But from April 6, 1983, the first £25,000 is tax free, the next £25,000 is taxed at half your marginal rate of tax and the next £25,000 is taxed at three-quarters of your marginal rate. Any excess over £75,000 will be taxed in full. Jack Gill, the ACC director who was due to receive a golden handshake of £560,000, must be glad he decided to take redundancy well before April 6.

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY

Building societies please both savers and investors

The Bank of Scotland is now offering a very canny credit scheme—even to Sassenachs. It's called Scotplan.

No need to be a Scot, no need to have an account with us—Scotland's oldest Bank, established way back in 1695—to benefit from Scotplan. The coupon below is the way to get in touch with us. What it's all about.

- ✱ Scotplan means immediate credit when you want it—without asking.
- ✱ While your account is in credit it'll earn you interest every month.
- ✱ We'll give you a credit limit of 30 times your monthly payment, which you make by direct debit. For example, £30 a month lets you spend up to £900. £25, up to £750 and so forth. Your choice of monthly amount doesn't change until you want it to.
- ✱ With Scotplan you get a standard cheque book and cheque card that can be used anywhere. A monthly statement keeps you up to date.
- ✱ The interest on money borrowed through Scotplan is at 1.75% per month (A.P.R. 23.1%). This rate may vary from time to time in line with the general level of interest rates.
- ✱ Spend your Scotplan credit on anything you like, where and when you like.
- ✱ It's entirely your own affair.

Fill in the coupon now for full details and an application form. It's certainly worth your while.

Scotplan

It's a very canny credit scheme

To: Bank of Scotland, Central Banking Services, Freeport, Edinburgh EH1 0AA.

Please send me details and an application form for 'Scotplan'.

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ T/13/3

BANK OF SCOTLAND

Boost to limit on payment for child

The limit on small maintenance payments made to children is to be increased in the summer as part of the Chancellor's Budget changes.

Maintenance payments made under a Court Order (usually after a divorce) must be paid without deduction of tax if they come into the category of "small maintenance payments". As from the date of passing the 1982 Finance Act—some time in the summer—the limit on small maintenance payments made to a child will increase from £18 a week to £33 a week (or £143 a month).

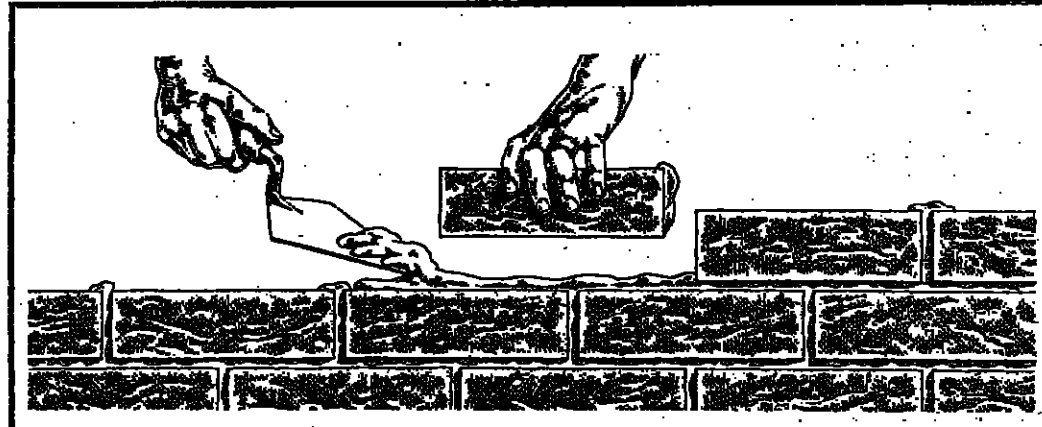
Such payments are not tax free and the payer (usually an ex-husband) is not allowed to deduct tax before paying. The child will pay tax on these payments in the normal way if income exceeds the personal allowance, £1,565 for 1982/83.

However, the Budget proposals constitute a change. Where money is paid to an ex-wife for the benefit of a child, instead of to the child direct, the limit on small maintenance payments will remain at £18 a week of £78 a month. The £33 a week of £143 a month limit on small maintenance payments made to a divorced or separated spouse remains unchanged.

Sorting out finances after a divorce is a minefield.

Where there are young children it pays to have some of the maintenance paid direct to the child to be treated as the child's income. The first £1,565 (1982-83) will be tax free in the hands of the child who is eligible for personal tax allowances in the normal way. A divorced wife is entitled to a personal tax allowance, plus the "additional personal allowance" for single parents bringing the limit of her tax free income up to that of a married man (£2,445 1982-83). But above this figure income which includes maintenance payments, will be taxed in the usual way.

Lorna Bourke



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Professional management is essential. Investing in the potential successes among smaller companies requires specialist in-depth knowledge combined with skilful timing. The team of professionals at Gartmore have proved over the years that they have exceptional expertise in this. David Collins, writing in the Sunday Telegraph, said of the Trust on 13/08/81 "The aim is above-average capital growth, something Gartmore funds always seem to achieve".

As a measure of the Trust's success, the offer price of units has risen by 27.6% since the launch last September, and the Trust is now valued at over

£7 million. Although this excellent short-term performance is no guarantee of future results, we believe that the investment policy for the Trust will ensure a continuing high level of growth. Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

How to invest. You can invest from £200 upwards: just complete and post the coupon below. The Trust's estimated current gross yield is 3.39% p.a. For your guidance the offer price of units on 11th March, 1982 was 31.3p.

Further Information. You can obtain information on other Gartmore unit trusts by circling the appropriate box on the coupon, details are free and available on Form 1200/23.

Applications will be accepted by and sent to the Managers on the coupon, details are free and available on Form 1200/23. The Trust is a limited company and its shares are listed on the London Stock Exchange. The Trust is a member of the Investment Association. The Trust is a member of the Investment Association. The Trust is a member of the Investment Association.

Over £7000,000 invested since launch. Apply now.

Application for Units in Gartmore UK Smaller Companies Recovery Trust

To: Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd., 2 St. Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP.

Telephone: 01-623 6114. (Read No. 11/27/82. Regd. address as above)

I/We should like to invest £ _____ (minimum £200)

in Gartmore UK Smaller Companies Recovery Trust at the offer price of units on the date of receipt.

I/We enclose a remittance, payable to Gartmore Fund Managers Ltd.

Tick box: ☐ For automatic re-investment of net income. ☐ For details of the complete Gartmore unit trust range. ☐ For details of Gartmore insurance linked plans.

Surname (Mr, Mrs, Miss) _____

First Name(s) in full _____

Address _____

Signature(s) _____ T/13/3/82

(When application is made, sign and attach names and addresses as above)

GARTMORE

£2,000,000 invested since launch. Apply now.

THE BUDGET

EDITED BY LORNA BOURKE

Taxpayers' gain will prove a tax planners' nightmare



"A pretentious little wine — leaves an ill-bred metallic aftertaste of customs and excise on the palate."

How to keep up your spirits despite extra duty

The Chancellor's decision to raise excise duties on wines and spirits in Tuesday's Budget does not necessarily spell gloom for the investor. His "sensible" presumption that (excise duties) should be adjusted in line with the movement in prices from one year to the next resulted in excise duty rises of 1.04 per cent on champagne and 1.27 per cent on light wine, like claret and burgundy. Other sparkling wines, £1.57 on port, and approximately £3.13 on spirits like cognac and armagnac. In addition, the Treasury gains by 15 per cent VAT on these increases.

Many wine and spirit merchants were expecting a small rise and had cleared the stocks duty-paid. Balls Bros (313 Cambridge Heath Road, London, E2 9LQ) will, for instance, hold prices for four weeks from Budget day; this includes their two wine investment schemes, Justicial & Brooks (61 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1JZ) aims to hold spirit prices until April 1 and wine prices until possibly later.

Leytons Wine Merchants (20 Midland Road, London, NW1 2AD) have extended the closing date of their wine investment plan to March 15, subject to stocks remaining available. It is for a mixed cellar, purchased by regular monthly payments over a six month period. It includes Sandeman 1977 port and the outstanding 1978 claret vintage in Ch. Grand Puy Ducasse.

Like many country wine merchants, Lay and Wheeler (6 Culver, Street West, Colchester, CO1 1JA) is aiming to hold its prices until a new list is issued on April 1.

No excise duty or VAT is liable for stocks of wines and spirits bought and stored under bond. Most reputable merchants will quote for the better wines of investment potential without duty and can advise whether they can undertake storage or recommend a suitable public bond (a list of which is obtainable from HM Customs and Excise). With a wine like vintage port, the combined excise duty and VAT can amount to over £20 a case.

Wines and spirits are more attractive to overseas bidders at auction as well as to

investors will welcome the Government's move in index-linking capital gains tax — a move that, for most people will mean the end of CGT. But it presents tax planners with more permutations than Rubik's Cube and some stockbrokers are wondering if their computers will stand the strain.

The Budget has made three main changes to capital gains tax. First the annual exemption from CGT is raised from £3,000 to £5,000. For many modest investors, this alone will effectively mean the end of CGT. Secondly, this threshold is in future to be raised in line with inflation each year. Thirdly, and far more complicated, profits in the disposal of investments will be adjusted to take account of inflation.

Capital Gains Tax will be payable on that part of any gain which exceeds the rise in the Retail Prices Index, starting from March 1982. For example, if you buy an asset for £100 and the RPI rises by 10 per cent, you will pay capital gains tax only on any profits over £110. But you must have held the assets for a year before any index-linking applies.

For owners of second homes and other property the new provisions will provide welcome relief... Capital gains tax on property should be virtually eliminated.

But for owners of shares and other securities the implications of the provisions are difficult to understand. Derek Scrivener who heads the financial services department of stockbrokers Capel Cure Myscows says "until we see the Finance Bill we won't know in detail how it is supposed to work, but it looks as though the administrative side of private client portfolios is going to be much more time consuming."

It also, as Mr Scrivener explains, turns the time-

losses to mitigate the tax liability on gains, and holding on to his shares to retain the higher base line that goes with index-linking. Because bed and breakfasting counts as a proper disposal, the investor is caught by the one year rule — he will not benefit from any index-linking in the twelve months after bed and breakfasting. It is rather like trying to pat your head and rub your tummy.

Say you buy shares for £1,000 which four years

rise in value to £1,500. The persons who has not bed and breakfasted earlier will pay CGT on only £48 — the excess over the new base line of £1,452. The investor who bed and breakfasted at £750 would have saved a maximum of £75 in CGT — 30 per cent of the £250 loss established but will now have a CGT liability on the sale at £1,500, of £225. This could, of course fall within the annual exemption.

It looks as though bed and breakfasting losses may become a thing of the past as holding on to your losses and utilizing the higher index-linked cost base could well be worth more in the long run.

You may want to be bed and breakfasted to profit to utilize your exemption, but you will have to take into account the subsequent loss of one year's index-linking.

It may however, pay you to establish a higher base line for your shares even at the expense of sacrificing one year's index-linking. Suppose you buy £1,000 shares linked cost to £1,500 over two years. If the RPI moves up by 10 per cent in that second year the base cost for tax purposes is £1,100. Bed and breakfasting will however have established a new base cost of £1,500 — higher than you would obtain by simply hanging on to your shares.

In cases of a marginal gain, however, it could be that the rate of inflation outstrips the gain. The wise investor will take professional advice.

Suppose these share then Margaret Drummond

honoured practice of "bed and breakfasting" into something of a gamble.

Bed and breakfasting is the term used to describe the operation by which investors can establish a capital gain or loss for tax purposes without having to dispose of their investments for ever. It is usually done around now — before the end of the tax year on April 5.

Typically, where an investor is showing both losses and gains, he can offset the losses against the profits, keeping his overall profit to within the individual exemption limit — currently £3,000.

With the dawn of index-linking the investor has to choose between establishing

later have fallen in value to £750. By that time, assuming 10 per cent inflation each year, the new index-linked base line on the shares will be £1,320. If you bed and breakfast you establish a £250 loss which can be set against other gains, but you have a new base line of only £750 and you will have to wait another year before the index-linking starts again.

If you hang on to the shares, you retain the higher base line for calculating capital gains and are eligible for any index-linked increases in the base line during the following 12 months. Assuming a further 10 per cent inflation this would mean a base line of £1,452.

Suppose these share then Margaret Drummond

Improvement grants are upgraded

Home improvement grants worth as much as £10,000 are for the asking following this week's Budget and the Chancellor's attempt to breathe a little life into Britain's building industry.

As with all such grants there are plenty of catches but the money is definitely available for people who are either prepared or ready to put up with refurbishing run down houses.

In his speech last Tuesday the Chancellor defined three types of improvements for which the Government was prepared to earmark £100m. These cover roof insulation, provision of basic amenities and structural work.

There have been complaints in the past that either local authorities were unprepared to make improvement cash available or that with stringent public spending cut backs they did not have the resources.

The first grant available is what the Chancellor called an "intermediate grant" which is mandatory — that is, the council must provide the cash if you apply for assistance in installing basic amenities.

Under the scheme the grant is worth 90 per cent of the cost of providing proper bathroom inside WC and hot and cold running water. Unlike other grants there is no limiting age factor on the property but within the Greater London area the house or flat must have a rateable value of less

than £400 a year; £225 a year in the rest of the country.

At the same time there are expense limits. Do not expect to receive a friendly welcome from your local council office when you start talking about double glazing, gold taps and bidets. Within the London area the expense limits are £6,000; £4,400 elsewhere.

The other major grant scheme announced this week covers the cost of repairs. This is aimed at improving run down properties where substantial structural alterations are needed, such as foundations, roof work, and major internal rebuilding.

Unlike the intermediate grant this cash help is a discretionary, not mandatory hand out.

To be eligible for a repair grant the property must have been built before 1919 with the same rateable value limits as the intermediate grant. The expense limits are lower: £5,500 in Greater London; £4,000 elsewhere.

It is probably in this area that most difficulty will be encountered obtaining money from councils. Under the provisions outlined by Sir Geoffrey local authorities must estimate the demand for repair grants, as with other grants, and apply to the Department of the Environment for their allocation.

To secure either grant you, and your council, must have applied for the cash before December 31, 1982, otherwise further claims will be ineligible.

gible. So if you are thinking of taking on a run down property you will have to act soon.

The scheme is expected to run from about mid-April when an order is placed before Parliament. This gives you about eight months to apply for the appropriate grant.

Another piece of encouragement from the Chancellor is that he has boosted the cash help available for roof insulation. It is raised from a maximum of £65 to £89 although there is some indi-

cation that a greater emphasis will be placed on quality of insulation.

The elderly, low income earners and disabled will see their grants rise from £90 to £95, or 90% of the cost, whichever is the lower.

It is to your advantage to approach your local council for fuller details on these schemes when they are introduced next month. Some councils are better than others at making the public aware of the grants available.

Baron Phillips

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FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks
Current account — no interest paid. Deposit accounts — Barclays, Lloyds, and Natwest 10 per cent. Midland 10 per cent. Several days notice required for withdrawals. For sums of £10,000 or more rate fixed for the term. Fixed-term deposits — 1 month 12% per cent; 3 and 6 months, 12 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Money funds
Since 7-day fund, 13.92 per cent; UDT Average Rate Deposit Fund, 14% per cent; Tyndall 7-day fund, 13.5 per cent; Simco dollar fund, 14.12 per cent; interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from Simco (01-236 0233), Tyndall (0272-732241), UDT (scheme now closed to new investment).

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts — interest 5 per cent; first £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account — 14 per cent, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000. (Reducing to 13% per cent on April 1).

National Savings Index-linked certificates
Maximum investment: £5,000, return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail prices index, 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 certificates purchased in March 1977, £184.17 including 4 per cent bonus.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. Portfolio years, General Life — 0.5 per cent net — minimum investment £500. Three years, general portfolio 11.2 per cent net — minimum investment £500. Four years, American Life, 12.00-13.5 per cent (dependent on age) — minimum investment £1,000. Five years, Lamont Life 12 per cent net — min. investment £1,000.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts — 8.75 per cent, term shares — 1 to 5 years, between 0.5 per cent and 2 per cent.

BSA recommended ordinary share rates depending on the term.
Regular savings schemes — 1.25 per cent over BSA's recommended ordinary share rate. Rates above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax, not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Local authority yearling bonds
12-month fixed rate investments, interest 13% pc basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers). Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance Loans Bureau (01-828 7855, after 3 pm). See also on Prestel no 24808.

Finance for industry
Fixed-term, fixed-rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax: 3-4 years, 13% pc; 5-7 years, 13% pc; 8-10 years, 13% pc. Further information from FFI 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-828 7822).

Finance house deposits (UDT)
Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deductions of tax. For sums of between £5,000 and £50,000: 6 months, 12% pc; 1 year, 12% pc; 2 years, 13 pc.

Foreign currency deposits
Interest paid without deduction of tax.

US dollar (call) 12% pc 12% pc
Yn (2 days) 3% pc 3% pc
D. Mark 6% pc 6% pc
French Franc 10% pc 10% pc
Swiss Franc 1 pc 1% pc

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The Vanbrugh Flexible Retirement Plan is built on some of the most generous tax concessions ever offered to one section of the community.

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- * This relief can be claimed in respect of unused relief for the previous 6 years.
- * All investment income and capital gains accumulate in tax exempt funds. Pensions do not attract investment income surcharge. Death benefits can normally be arranged without liability to Capital Transfer Tax.

Such advantages are, of course, common to all self-employed pension plans, but with the Vanbrugh Flexible Retirement Plan they are only the beginning of a uniquely attractive investment proposition.

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You can now invest in a pension plan without locking up your money until you retire. Vanbrugh's LOANBACK FACILITY may allow you to borrow back a sum equal to the value of your accumulated funds at any time between now and retirement. The net interest on the loan accrues for the benefit of your own pension plan.

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Investors in the Vanbrugh Flexible Retirement Plan may now borrow up to fifteen times their initial annual investment (subject to security and credit worthiness) from Forward Trust Limited, a subsidiary of Midland Bank, allowing investors to boost their liquidity immediately. Written quotations are available from Vanbrugh Pensions Limited.

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Source: Money Management, income reinvested.
To: Perpetual Group, 48 Hart Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 2AZ. Telephone: (0491) 216888.
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| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|------------------|-----|---|------|------|-----|-----|
| 103 | 73 | Walter Alexander | 77 | — | 5.0 | 12.0 | 4.3 | 7.8 |
| 263 | 212 | W. S. Yeates | 226 | — | 6.4 | 8.3 | 5.1 | 9.0 |
| | | | | | 13.1 | 5.8 | 4.3 | 8.7 |

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

[illegible]

Edited by Peter Davalle

in the 1980s

Radio 1

As Radio 2 7.00 Wake Up to
Lend with Adrian John. 8.00
Jackburn's Saturday Show.
Paul Burnett. 1.00 pm Adrian
2.00 A King in New York, who
in King? 3.00 Paul
Pickett. 4.00 Walkers' Weekly
in Writers. 5.00 Rock On! -
Concert, featuring UFO. 7.30
RHR Radio 1 and 2. 8.00 am
Radio 2. 1.00 pm with Radio 1,
30 am with Radio 2.

SERVICE

[illegible]

230 Sports Review, 3.00 Words
09 News about Britain, 3.15 From
Correspondent, 3.30 Rhythm 17
00 Newdesk, 5.45 Letter from

2 VHF 88-91MHz, Radio 3
720kHz/417m, LBC MF
F 94.9MHz, World Service

ULSTER

tion except: Starts 10.00 am-
thgray, 5.00 pm-5.05 Sports
6.13 News, 5.15-5.45 Mr
7.45-8.45 Magnum, 10.50
Carlo Show: With Helen Reddy
Mid Essex, 11.40 News at
, Closedown.

BORDER

tion except: Starts 9.35am-

SCOTTISH
 lion except: Starts 9.15 am
 he Wicking. 9.40-10.30
 birds. 5.15-5.45 Mr Merlin.
 the Coll. 11.55 That's
 od. 12.50 am Closes down.

YORKSHIRE
 lion except: Starts 9.00 am
 Tazzen goes to India (Jack
 7.15). Tazzen answers the call of
 the princess who needs help to
 thousands of elephants from
 5.15-5.45 Mr Merlin. 7.45-
 signers. 11.50 That's
 od. 12.20 am.

THE SYMBOLS MEAN: **STEREO**
 (K AND W) REPEAT.

Radio 1
Tony Blackburn's Sunday
10.00 Noel Edmonds. 1.00 pm
Seville's "Old Record" Club.
Radio 116 with David Jensen.
1.30 go on with Tony Vance. 17.00
Jazz Producers. Richard
2.00 Sounds of Jazz. 17.00
After RADIO 1 18.00 2.50 on
Radio 2. 5.00 pm with Radio 1.
1.00 with Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE
World Service can be received in
Europe on medium wave (648 kHz)
at the following times (GMT): 6.00
7.00 8.00 9.00 10.00 11.00 News
Radio 17.15 From Our Own Correspondents

[illegible]

GRAMPY

ton except: Starts 9.15am
Box. 5.95 God's Story,
2.00 Gardening Time. 1.00pm
C. 3.00-3.30 The World
Makers: Napoleon. 11.30-
Gardening Time. 1.00pm
by Challenge. 1.30 Film
2.00-3.30 Film, Broken Arrow
Stewart, Debra Paget Westerns
are on. 3.30-4.00
and hearts. 4.00 Behind the
30 Scoutsport. 5.30-6.30 Chips.
15 Hart to Hart, 12.15am
cons. 12.30 Close Down.

BORDER

ton except: Starts 9.20am Be
Box. 5.95 God's Story,
2.00 Gardening Time. 1.00pm
C. 3.00-3.30 The World
Makers: Napoleon. 11.30-
Gardening Time. 1.00pm
by Challenge. 1.30 Film
2.00-3.30 Film, Broken Arrow
Stewart, Debra Paget Westerns
are on. 3.30-4.00
and hearts. 4.00 Behind the
30 Scoutsport. 5.30-6.30 Chips.
15 Hart to Hart, 12.15am
cons. 12.30 Close Down.

West except: 2.00 pm-2.30
Show with guest Jean-François
the finalist, 3.30 Trey Lysand
00-4.30 Mark and Mindy.

CENTRAL

don except: Starts 8.50am
'82, 2.00 Be Your Own Boss.
0.00 God's Story, 11.30-12.00.
ing Time, 12.10-12.30.
e, 1.30 Hers and Now, 2.00-
onson, 3.30 Film: 9-Mat
ht (Dirk Bogarde, Marius
n. In Crete during the German
don, British agents work with
to capture a German
5.30 Cartoons, 6.30-6.00
ares of Black Beauty, 7.15-8.15
Hart, 12.15am Clossdown.

